DH
DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

ED places prosecution nod against Chidambaram in court

Page 11

Mayank Agarwal holds Karnataka together as J&K on cusp of Ranji history

Page 16

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Bengaluru Friday, February 27, 2026 Pages 20 Vol 79 No 58 ₹7

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DH

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

India crush Zimbabwe by 72 runs in must-win clash

India amass 256 on Abhishek, Hardik 50s

Page 15

Cabinet nod to fill 56k posts in 30 days as per old quota formula

Any decision on new matrix depends on HC ruling: H K Patil

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka Cabinet decided on Thursday to fill 56,432 government posts through direct recruitment in the next 30 days by following the earlier 50% reservation matrix (15% for SCs, 3% for STs).

Briefing reporters after the Cabinet meeting, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil said: "On November 19, 2025, the high court stayed the SC and ST Reservation Act, 2022, which increased reservations (for SCs and STs). As a result, recruitment for 56,432 posts has been stayed. Since the recruitment has to begin immediately, keeping in mind the high court's order, we are going to recruit as per the reservation order and roster points in place before December 28, 2022 (50% reservation)."

The Cabinet's decision comes against the backdrop of massive protests in Dharwad by job aspirants who have been urging the government to fill the 2.85 lakh vacancies in government departments.

The minister explained that the recruitment based on the 50% reservation matrix is subject to the high court's final verdict.

▸ Cabinet, Page 6

Quick recruitments

- Decision amid massive protests in Dharwad
- Old formula of total 50% reservation to be followed
- As per old formula, 15% quota for SCs, 3% for STs
- Keeping in mind HC verdict, govt will recruit only in 94 vacancies out of 100 posts
- Out of remaining six, four will be set aside for SCs and two for STs in case HC agrees to new matrix

Law Minister H K Patil.

Okays Cauvery Stage 6 project

The Cabinet on Thursday approved the Cauvery Stage 6 project at a cost of Rs 6,939 crore. Under Cauvery Stage 6, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) aims to bring an additional 500 MLD of Cauvery water to the city. Page 5

SC bans chapter on corruption, says 'judiciary bleeding'

Issues show-cause notices to education ministry, NCERT

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Thursday banned the controversial chapter on 'corruption in judiciary' from the Class 8 textbook of Social Science introduced by the NCERT, stating that a deeper probe was required behind a deep-rooted conspiracy to undermine and demean the dignity of the institution.

Taking up a suo motu case, a bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi said, "Judiciary is bleeding today, they fired the gun... Heads must roll; we will not close the case. We need to find who is responsible. If allowed to go unchecked, it will erode the sanctity of judicial office."

The court stated that such misconduct will fall within the purview of contempt of court, and if deliberate, it will amount to interfering with the administration of justice.

The court also ordered the Union government to take down the chapter from all platforms.

It also issued a show-cause notice to the Secretary of School Education, Ministry of Education and the NCERT Director, as to why action under the Contempt of Courts Act or any other law should not be taken against them.

▸ Textbook, Page 6

Key observations

There appeared to be a 'deep-rooted conspiracy' and 'calculated move' to undermine the institution and demean the dignity of judiciary

- If allowed to go unchecked, it will erode the sanctity of judicial office in estimation of public
- Instead of introspecting on what had been written in the most reckless, irresponsible, contemptuous, and motivated manner, the NCERT director defended the contents of the book

"I am very sad at what has happened and express regret. There was no intention to insult the judiciary. An inquiry will be conducted and accountability fixed. Action will be taken against those involved in drafting the chapter

DHARMENDRA PRADHAN, Education Minister

PM seeks action

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has directed the Ministry of Education to take action against persons concerned following a row over the NCERT Class 8 textbook chapter on corruption in the judiciary.
Details on Page 7

India, Israel elevate ties to special strategic partnership

JERUSALEM, PTI

India and Israel on Thursday elevated their "time-tested" relationship to a special strategic partnership and agreed to fast-track a long-awaited free trade deal even as Prime Minister Narendra Modi backed the Gaza Peace Initiative, asserting that humanity must never become a victim of conflict.

In his media statement after holding wide-ranging talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Modi said India's security interests are directly linked to peace and stability in the Middle East and that New Delhi has been pitching for a peaceful solution to the conflict in Gaza.

Following the meeting between the two prime ministers, India and Israel inked a total of 17 agreements and documents that will provide for deeper cooperation in AI, trade, investment, education, manufacturing, culture, maritime heritage, agriculture and a plethora of other areas.

PM Narendra Modi visits the World Holocaust Remembrance Centre in Jerusalem. PTI

The two sides also vowed to expand their already close defence partnership by working towards joint development and joint production of military hardware under the framework of the transfer of technologies.

The US-Iran standoff and other issues in the region figured in the talks and PM Modi mentioned India's firm belief in the value of dialogue and reiterated New Delhi's readiness to offer support, if required, toward achieving a peaceful solution, according to Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri.

In his media statement, Modi said India-Israel ties are built on a strong foundation of deep trust, shared democratic values and compassion.

▸ Israel, Page 6

Property deals may get costlier from April

BENGALURU, DHNS: Property transactions across Karnataka are likely to become costlier from April 1, as the state government is taking steps to revise the guidance value of land and buildings.

The average increase in the guidance value is likely to be anywhere between 15% and 20%, sources said.

Details on Page 3B

AI EFFECT

Memory chip crunch: Mobiles, PCs to cost more

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Soon, buying a smartphone or personal computer (PC) will burn a hole in your pocket due to memory chip shortage. Prices of smartphones and PCs could go up by at least 13% and 17%, respectively compared to the rates last year, according to business and technology insights company Gartner.

It estimates a 130% surge in DRAM (Dynamic Random Access Memory) and solid-state drive (SSD) prices by the end of 2026. This will increase PC and smartphone prices. DRAM is a type of computer memory.

This memory chip shortage is due to the massive build-out of AI infrastructure. High Bandwidth Memory (HBM), which is a type of advanced DRAM, is being allocated to AI data centre uses.

US chipmaker Qualcomm, in its earnings call, acknowledged an industry-wide memory shortage. The company's CEO Cristiano Amon, during the earnings call, said that in the coming quarters, the handset industry will be constrained by the availability and pricing of memory, particularly DRAM.

▸ Memory chip, Page 6

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The No Chair Dare to be conducted in suitable and safe environment. Participation is voluntary. Participants to be in good health and physical fitness. Perform the test using proper technique and adequate support. No Chair Dare is a strength activity that may be suitable for long term maintenance of muscle strength. Ramsey et al. Ageing Research Reviews 67 (2021): 101266 *As per Nutrient requirements for Indians, RDA and EAR, A report of the Expert Group 2020 (updated 2024)for sedentary women when prepared with 200 ml milk. According to IFCT (Indian Food Composition Table, 2017). #BCAA – Kurien A et al, J Nutr Metab. 2020, Dudgeon et al, 2016, JISSN 13(1) Protinex should be consumed as part of a well-balanced diet and healthy lifestyle
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FREQUENCY BOOST

Yellow Line peak-hour headway 9 minutes, off-peak hours 14 mins

Sunday schedule and first and last train timings remain unchanged

BENGALURU, DHNS

Starting Friday, Namma Metro trains on the Yellow Line will run every nine minutes during peak hours and every 14 minutes during non-peak hours.

The current frequency is 10 minutes and 18 minutes, respectively.

The peak hours run from 8 am to noon and 4 pm to 9 pm.

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) received the eighth Yellow Line trainset on January 19, raising hopes that frequency would improve during both peak and non-peak hours.

Although the eighth train was inducted into passenger service recently, the frequency remained unchanged because one train is being kept as a maintenance spare for emergencies, sources aware of the matter said.

However, amid growing passenger frustration, the BMRCL has decided to increase train frequency from Monday to Saturday. There will be no change on Sundays.

First- and last-train timings from terminal stations (RV Road and Bommasandra) also remain unchanged, the BMRCL stated.

The 19.15-km RV Road-Bommasandra metro line, which opened on August 11 last year and connects the tech hub of Electronics City, has average daily ridership of one lakh.

The third Pink Line trainset at the Inspection Bay Line (IBL) at the Kothanur depot on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Third train for Pink Line

Bengaluru-headquartered BEML delivered the third trainset for Namma Metro's Pink Line on Thursday, sources have told *DH*.

At the Kothanur depot, all six coaches were assembled into a train and moved to the Inspection Bay Line (IBL) for further inspections.

The PSU had rolled out the Pink Line's prototype train on December 11, 2025, and then dispatched the second train on February 3.

The prototype needs statutory clearances before induction into revenue service, a process that could take months.

The BMRCL, which aims to open the Pink Line's 7.5-km Kalena Agrahara-Taverekere section in May, will use the trains to conduct anti-collision tests. BEML aims to supply six trains for the Pink Line by May.

Metro chief inspects KR Pura-Airport line

BMRCL Managing Director J Ravishankar conducted an on-site inspection of the Blue Line (KR Pura-Airport) on Thursday.

Accompanied by senior officials and contractors, he reviewed the civil and station work progress from Kasthurinagar to Kodigehalli Cross.

He emphasised the need for early viaduct completion to minimise traffic disruption along the Outer Ring Road (ORR) and reviewed the progress of station architectural finishing works, which were recently awarded.

The BMRCL aims to open the 27-km Hebbal-Airport section in June 2027 and the 11-km Hebbal-KR Pura stretch in December that year.

Chickpet fire sparks call for better access to Pete areas

Urban planners also renew push for hydrants

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

A massive fire tore through a three-storey commercial complex in Kumbarpet, off Avenue Road, destroying 21 shops on Wednesday morning. DH PHOTO/BK JANARDHAN

Back-to-back fires at commercial hubs such as Chickpet and Nagarthpet have raised safety concerns in commercial zones, where unplanned economic growth remains a problem.

On Wednesday, 21 shops were gutted after a fire originating at a hardware shop spread rapidly. In August 2025, fire at a five-storey building in Nagarthpet had claimed five lives.

Sources in the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) said narrow roads near the shop where the accident occurred on Wednesday prevented fire tenders from gaining direct access.

"Fire personnel informed that the blaze was extinguished by laying hose lines from a distance of approximately 300 metres," GBA sources said.

Experts said these hubs have been developed to meet people's requirements. Coercive steps cannot be forced on an unplanned economy. Therefore, local area planning is important.

Multiple urban planners and experts told *DH* that the government should redevelop these areas in phases to reduce such incidents.

"For instance, Raja Market was redeveloped with lanes running inside the market. This is a Paris model. While it does not completely prevent accidents, it greatly reduces the probability. Such gradual redevelopment is important in these commercial hubs," an urban planner said.

In her article 'Reciprocity as Regulation: Exploring Methodologies in Urban Design for the Historical Pete, Bangalore', renowned urban planner Champaka Rajagopal argued for a bottom-up, negotiated decision-making approach to address such concerns. Also, there is a need to revive fire safety measures such as water hydrants previously installed in these areas.

"Fire safety codes are generic. Improving them with better fire extinguishers on motorbikes and hose pipes that can enter narrow lanes would help in such situations," another urban planner said.

Civil engineers opined that the government should not dilute the bylaws and work towards better enforcement.

"Setback rules should be better enforced in commercial areas since they are densely populated. However, now, the bylaws are being diluted and setbacks reduced for properties. The National Building Code (NBC) is being weakened. The government should immediately address these concerns," said Srikanth Channal from the Association of Consulting Civil Engineers.

Activists have also called for better enforcement of the bylaws to prevent such incidents in future.

"The corporations should stop buildings violating the bylaws. Many are coming up without leaving any setback. The corporations should take immediate action to prevent accidents in the future," said Rakesh S, a resident of North Bengaluru.

GBA orders probe, mandatory fire safety measures

BENGALURU, DHNS: A day after a fire gutted 21 shops in Chickpet, Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao directed officials to form a committee to prevent such incidents.

Rao, who visited the spot on Thursday, asked officials to implement precautionary measures to ensure that such incidents do not recur.

"A committee comprising representatives from the Greater Bengaluru Authority, Central City Corporation, Fire and Emergency Services Department, and Electricity Department will be formed to conduct a detailed inquiry into the causes of the accident and to submit a comprehensive report on effective measures to prevent and control such incidents," Rao said.

He directed officials to install hydrant systems at key locations and CCTV cameras to monitor the hydrants. He also ordered a comprehensive inspection of the building where the fire occurred.

Maheshwar Rao

"Fire safety systems and fire extinguishers must be made mandatory in all commercial buildings within the Chickpet jurisdiction. Seal buildings that fail to install fire safety systems," Rao said.

Officials will hold a meeting with trade associations to discuss precautionary measures and ensure compliance.

The corporation has decided to disconnect electricity supply to unauthorised buildings, and notices will be issued to halt construction activities.

"If portions constructed in violation of the sanctioned plan are not removed, criminal cases should be registered against the building owners," Rao said.

Unauthorised construction, waste woes top grievances

GBA boss chairs first public meeting at Central City Corporation

BENGALURU, DHNS

GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao and civic officials interact with citizens at the grievance meet on Thursday. PHOTO: GBA

Complaints related to garbage mismanagement and unauthorised constructions dominated a public grievance meeting held at the head office of the Bengaluru City Central Corporation on Thursday, with residents flagging a range of civic issues in their neighbourhoods.

Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao and Central Corporation Commissioner Rajendra Cholan received complaints directly from citizens in the presence of engineers. What's more, the turnout exceeded officials' expectations.

A total of 65 tokens were distributed to citizens, including members of residents' welfare associations and non-profit organisations. Besides garbage clearance and illegal constructions, complaints included damaged footpaths, illegal parking, pending road asphalting, stray cattle, non-functioning streetlights and poor park maintenance.

Rao directed officials to resolve at least 60 per cent of the complaints within a week. The remaining 40 per cent have been classified as long-term issues and will be prioritised.

Following complaints that auto tippers were not lifting bulk waste from commercial establishments, Rao ordered the appointment of separate engineers to conduct a comprehensive inspection and submit a report next week. Separately, Cholan directed joint commissioners to conduct special drives against illegal parking on major roads.

Among the key issues raised were persistent waterlogging in CV Raman Nagar, building violations on Ashoka Pillar Road, garbage accumulation in Hombegowda Nagar, the demand for a dialysis centre in Cox Town, delay in completing a community hall in Shanthinagar, early inauguration of the multi-level car parking facility at Gandhi Bazaar and a request for an underpass in Lingarajapuram to ease traffic congestion.

Officials informed citizens that the next public grievance meeting will be held on March 26. Those whose issues remain unresolved have been advised to attend the meet again and resubmit their complaints.

Additional Commissioner (Development) Daljit Kumar, Joint Commissioners Ranganath and Hemanth Sharan, Chief Engineer Vijay Kumar Haridas, Health Officer Shivakumar, and senior officials from the Revenue, Forest, Finance, Horticulture and Town Planning departments were present.

Ensure 100% cleanliness in public toilets: GBA chief

BENGALURU, DHNS: GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao on Thursday pulled up civic officials over the upkeep of public infrastructure, directing them to maintain "100% cleanliness" in public toilets across the city.

During inspections in the Bengaluru Central zone, Rao visited a public toilet near the KR Market mosque and instructed officials to ensure round-the-clock maintenance of the facility.

At Dasappa Hospital, he ordered the installation of information boards detailing staff shifts and available medical services. Stressing sustainability, Rao sanctioned an on-site leaf composting unit and sought a feasibility report for developing a green building and a multi-level car parking facility within the hospital premises.

At the H Siddaiah Road Referral Hospital, the inspection revealed operational lapses. Rao directed officials to immediately repair a defunct lift and optimise the use of underutilised floors.

Central City Corporation Commissioner Rajendra Cholan and senior engineers accompanied Rao during the ward-level review.

150 dog feeding spots notified in KR Puram, Mahadevapura

BENGALURU, DHNS: To mitigate human-animal conflict and streamline urban animal management, the Bengaluru East City Corporation has designated 150 official feeding spots for street dogs across KR Puram and Mahadevapura zones.

BECC Commissioner DS Ramesh announced on Thursday that the initiative aims to balance animal welfare with public health. By centralising feeding, the corporation intends to reduce food-driven aggression in dogs and simplify logistics for Animal Birth Control (ABC) and mass vaccination drives.

"Systematic feeding helps stabilise the stray population and reduces biting tendencies," Ramesh said. "These spots were chosen in consultation with local feeders and veterinary officers to ensure they remain away from high-traffic areas like schools, hospitals, and metro stations."

The identified locations span several wards, with the highest numbers in Marathahalli (41), followed by Whitefield (22), and HAL (13).

To ensure compliance, official 'Feeding Point' signboards have been installed at each site.

The corporation issued an advisory stating that feeding on main roads or near crowded public spaces is now prohibited. While the public is encouraged to use these spots, the BECC clarified that preventing people from feeding at designated points or damaging signboards are punishable offences.

GBA, city corporations to face action over air pollution, warns Khandre

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and respective city corporations will be held accountable if air quality deteriorates in Bengaluru, Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre said on Thursday.

Eshwar Khandre

He added that the government will convene a meeting with the city's 28 MLAs to devise comprehensive measures to curb rising air pollution.

Khandre made the announcement after a discussion with Rajajinagar MLA S Suresh Kumar, who raised concerns about health issues linked to polluted air.

"Bengaluru should not turn into a gas chamber like Delhi. A meeting of the city's public representatives will be held to evolve bipartisan measures with wider support. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who also holds the Bengaluru Development portfolio, will chair the meeting. Senior officials from urban local bodies will also be present," he said, adding that he would discuss the matter with Shivakumar at the earliest.

Cases against ULBs

Official air quality data in Bengaluru is generated from 11 stationary Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMs) and 13 mobile monitoring units.

Khandre said that if the Air Quality Index (AQI) crosses 100, moving beyond the 'satisfactory' range, the urban local body concerned should be issued a notice directing it to take time-bound action. "If no action is taken, a case should be filed against them," he said.

He also called for measures to increase the city's green cover, the formation of vigilance squads to enforce the ban on single use plastic, and sought a report on the status of wastewater recycling in Bengaluru.

Property auction today

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru South City Corporation will auction 50 properties on Friday for non-payment of property tax.

It will be held at 11 am at the auditorium of the Bommanahalli Joint Commissioner's office on Begur Main Road.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Vivekananda Degree College: Lecture on KP Poornachandra Tejaswi's life and writing by T Yellappa; College premises, Dr Rajkumar Road, Rajajinagar 2nd Stage; 10.30 pm.

Sheshsdripuram College: Release of Devaraj N's book 'Gandhi and Premchand'; College premises, Sheshadripuram; 11 am.

KLE Law College: Moot court hall; BA Patil and others; College premises, Visvesvaraya Layout; 4 pm.

Karnataka Janapada Academy: Presentation of awards; Shivaraj S Tangadagi and others; Ravindra Kalakshetra, JC Road; 11 am.

CULTURAL

Rangayana Mysuru: Staging of Banu Mushtaq's play 'Omme Hennagu', directed by Savita Rani; Indian Heritage Academy, Koramangala; 6.30 pm.

Rangarasadhare: Staging of the play 'Sevanti Prasanga', directed by Vijay Kashyap KS; Seva Sadana, Malleswaram; 7 pm.

Sahachari: Dance for peace and love; Kappanna Angala, JP Nagar 1st Stage; 7 pm.

RELIGIOUS

Kamannana Gudi Seva Samiti Trust: Rati-Manmatha kalyanotsava as part of Holi celebrations; Trust premises, Aralepete; 6.30 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Partly cloudy sky becoming generally cloudy towards afternoon or evening or night

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	31.5°C
Minimum	21.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	38%
Sunset (Feb 27)	6:28 pm
Sunrise (Feb 28)	6:37 am
Moonrise	1:35 pm
Moonset	2:02 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

STORIES OF SURVIVAL

Film spotlights Bengaluru waste pickers' fight for entitlements

Participants at the event hosted by Hasiru Dala in Bengaluru on Thursday. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

BENGALURU, DHNS

Hasiru Dala hosted an event on Thursday titled 'Social Entitlements: From Exclusion to Access', focusing on the systemic challenges and gains of Bengaluru's waste-picking community.

The programme screened a documentary on workers who sustain the city's recycling economy, but often remain excluded from basic rights.

Data shared at the event showed that while more than 22,000 waste pickers contribute to Bengaluru's solid waste management, nearly 80 per cent lack ration cards. The absence of documentation restricts access to healthcare, pensions and education.

"Social security is not charity, it is recognition," said Chinmayi of Hasiru Dala. She said the 'Mobile Social Security' initiative, part of the Saamuhika Shakti project supported by the H&M Foundation, has facilitated more than 7,000 approvals for identity documents such as Aadhaar and PAN cards by taking the registration system directly to workers.

An impact assessment by Enviu found that for every Re 1 invested in these interventions, Rs 9.83 in social value was created.

Also, 90 per cent of beneficiaries reported reduced social stigma after obtaining formal identification.

Joining virtually, Additional Chief Secretary Uma Mahadevan praised the documentary for highlighting the "feminised workforce" in waste management.

"The only way forward is to handle waste locally, bringing dignity to those in this sector. This film is a testament to the fundamental work they do for our common futures," Uma said.

She said the state is committed to decentralisation, with thousands of gram panchayats partnering with women's collectives for end-to-end waste processing.

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Nimhans study questions long-held theory on Parkinson's progression

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

More than a century after Lewy bodies were first identified, their origin in Parkinson's disease remains one of neuroscience's enduring mysteries.

Now, new research from the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (Nimhans), Bengaluru, presents a model that could reshape how scientists understand and potentially treat the disease at an earlier stage.

Parkinson's disease, the second most common neurological disorder after Alzheimer's, affects millions worldwide. It is marked by tremors, muscle stiffness and slowed movement.

A key pathological feature is the presence of Lewy bodies — abnormal, protein-rich deposits inside brain cells. Since 1997, researchers have known that Lewy bodies are largely made up of a protein called alpha-synuclein. However, how these deposits form and why they contain hundreds of different cellular components remains unclear.

A study published in *Communications Biology (Nature Portfolio)* by Nimhans researchers reports that disease-specific changes in alpha-synuclein may act as the main early trigger for Lewy body formation.

Under normal conditions, alpha-synuclein is abundant in neurons and exists in a flexible, stable form, with its internal hydrophobic ("sticky") region hidden. This enables normal cellular function.

The study shows that in Parkinson's disease, alpha-synuclein undergoes structural changes that expose this sticky region. Once exposed, the protein behaves differently, binding indiscriminately to nearby cellular components instead of forming selective interactions.

"It essentially turns into a molecular trap," Sneha Jos, the first author of the study, said, capturing other proteins, lipids and damaged organelles. This promiscuous behaviour helps explain why Lewy bodies are so complex — something traditional aggregation-focused models have struggled to explain.

"For decades, research centred on the idea that Lewy bodies form because alpha-synuclein aggregates into long fibrils, and many drug development efforts have targeted this process. Most have failed in clinical trials. Our study challenges this fibril-centric view, arguing that early, non-specific interactions, rather than aggregation alone, drive Lewy body formation," said Sivaraman Padavattan, Additional Professor, Department of Biophysics, Nimhans, who led the research.

Using biochemical and biophysical tests, the researchers showed that disease-linked forms of alpha-synuclein interact with many more cellular proteins than the normal form.

The team's new 'Multifactorial Random Disorder Model' shifts attention to the earliest molecular events, opening avenues for biomarker development and therapy.

Intervening before alpha-synuclein turns into a cellular scavenger, the researchers suggest, could help slow or delay Parkinson's disease before irreversible neuronal damage occurs.

The researchers are working to strengthen the study. "We are also planning to develop an early detection biomarker for Parkinson's in collaboration with Nimhans clinicians," added Padavattan.

Explaining the causes of Parkinson's disease, he said the condition is broadly classified as familial and sporadic. The familial form, about 10–15% of cases, is linked to mutations in alpha-synuclein and related genes. Most patients fall under the sporadic category, with no single genetic cause identified.

Researchers have proposed several contributing factors for sporadic Parkinson's, including environmental exposure.

Mother of two found strangled in farmland near Varthur

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 30-year-old mother of two was found murdered in a farmland in south-eastern Bengaluru on Thursday, police said.

Sonali Khatun

The victim, Sonali Khatun, had left home in Siddapura near Varthur around 7.30 pm on Wednesday to collect her mobile phone from Brookefield, where she worked as a housekeeper in a residential building. She had taken her husband's phone with her.

When she failed to return home, her family attempted to contact her, but found both phones switched off. They began searching for her and later discovered her body in the farmland.

Police suspect she was strangled with a veil.

Based on a complaint filed by her mother, Syara Khatun, the Varthur police have registered a case of murder and launched an investigation.

Sonali lived with her husband, Babu, and their two children. The family had moved to Bengaluru two years ago.

Her husband works as a daily wage labourer.

KIADB

Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

E-AUCTION NOTIFICATION

Residential Houses

Sl. No	House Details	No of Units	Plot size in mtr.	Plot Area in Sq.mtr
1	LIG	50	9.14 x 12.19	111.41
2	MIG	20	9.14 x 15.24	139.29
3	HIG	36	12.19 x 18.29	222.95
Total		106		

Residential Sites

Sl. No	Plots Details	No of Plots	Plot size in mtr.
1	EWS	07	6.10 x 9.14
2	LIG	64	9.14 x 12.19
3	MIG	21	9.14 x 15.24
4	HIG	02	12.19 x 18.29
Total		94	

Registration Starts from 04-03-2026 & Last Date for Registration is 18-03-2026

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"LIVE" E-Auction is on 21st & 22nd March, 2026

For More Details, Contact: KIADB, Tumakuru Zonal Office, Maruthi Groups Building, 2nd Floor, Near SIT College, Main Gate, B.H. Road, Tumakuru - 572103.
Email : dotumakuru@kiadb.in
Website: www.kiadb.in
Contact Details: 8105575100/8105768553

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Rejuvenation of lakes: A quick update

Work is in progress on lakes across Bengaluru. Here is what the authorities in charge are saying

SHRADDHA A K
TEAM METROLIFE

In the past two weeks, two city lakes — Nagawara and Halasuru — were drained, leaving citizens puzzled and worried.

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) stepped in to reassure them that the water had been drained as part of a comprehensive rejuvenation plan.

Metrolife brings you an update on rejuvenation efforts at lakes across the city.

Sarakki

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) completed the rejuvenation in 2023. The lake, spread across 86 acres, is now maintained by Zone Two of the South City Corporation of the GBA. Chief engineer K V Ravi from Zone Two says, "We conduct daily checks to prevent the lake from being overtaken by water hyacinths."

What we saw: The area around the lake was clean and neatly maintained. The water looked clean, and we saw people from different age groups walking, running, and jogging in the morning. According to locals, it is the best-maintained lake in the city.

Uttarahalli

The four-acre lake was rejuvenated in 2015 by the BBMP and is now being maintained by Zone One of the South City Corporation of the GBA.

What we saw: Though the area around the lake was actively used by the public, the lake was very low in water level and almost looked dried up.

Varthur and Bellandur

These lakes fall under the jurisdiction of the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA). BDA chief engineer Shantha Rajanna says the desilting of the 450-acre Varthur lake was completed a year ago. It will soon be handed over to the GBA East City Corporation for further development and maintenance.

As for the 890-acre Bellandur lake, it is currently undergoing desilting. Rajanna says, "We need to remove a total of 32 lakh cubic metres of silt. We have already removed 22 lakh to 24 lakh cubic metres." After the desilting is done, the lake will be handed over to the GBA East City Corporation.

Halasuru

The lake was drained about a week ago and is being desilted for the first time in 20 years. Shilpa, assistant executive engineer (lakes), GBA, says the desilting has not yet begun because the area is still too wet.

"We will wait for it to dry a bit before starting the process," she says. The plan is to complete the desilting before the monsoon sets in. Once desilting and rejuvenation are done, the lake will be handed over to the Central City Corporation of the GBA, she says.

What we saw: The lake has been completely drained, and the area around the lake is also being worked on. Some people were seen using the walkways in certain parts.

Nagawara and Hebbal

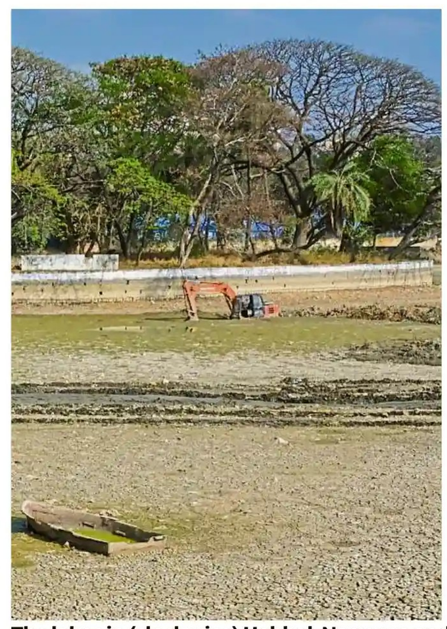
Both lakes were drained between early and mid-February for desilting, bund construction, and water capacity enhancement.

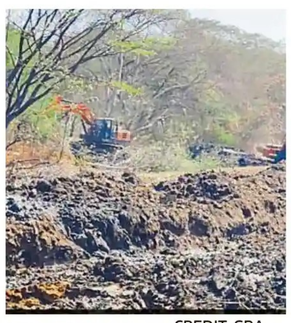
Rejuvenation of the Nagawara lake (92 acres) is only about 10% complete, reports suggest. GBA executive engineer Nithya says both lakes are undergoing "comprehensive development," which includes desilting. The Hebbal lake is spread across 192 acres.

In the first phase, silt will be removed, bunds created, and inlet systems established. "We have discovered that both lakes have their inlets diverted, which means they are prevented from receiving rainwater," she says.

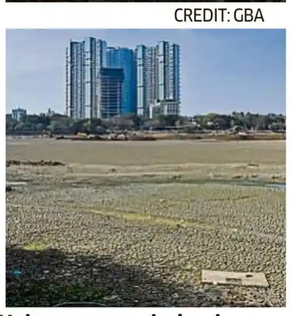
The inlets have been identified, and the encroached areas will be cleared, she explains.

The Nagwara lake has about one lakh cubic meters of silt that needs to be removed.





CREDIT: GBA



The lakes in (clockwise) Hebbal, Nagwara and Halasuru were drained recently. DH FILE PHOTOS

On a new page: City sees rise in book clubs with unique formats

In recent months, a meet-up that pairs food with books, and one held on public transport have come up

RASHMI RAJAGOPAL
TEAM METROLIFE

Bengaluru is home to numerous book clubs, but a handful of clubs with unique concepts have cropped up in the past few months. One club discusses books they hate, while others mix food and reading, with menus based on the book in question.

Diss a book

A meet-up this Saturday will see readers gather to talk about the books they dislike. The event was conceptualised by Aparajitha Sankar of Atta Galatta, Indiranagar. "The announcement was put out on Monday and we received 15 signups almost immediately," says Aparajitha. Some of the books she would like to discuss include Chetan Bhagat's latest — '12 Years: My Messed Up Love Story'. "The age gap relationship in the book has caused quite a stir and I would like to talk about the way the woman protagonist has been described," she says. She also plans to bring up the fantasy series 'Powerless' by Lauren Roberts. "As an avid reader of the fantasy genre, I found it quite disappointing. It had elements ripped from other fantasy books and film plots," she shares. For details, look up attagalatta.com

Bus Reads sees bibliophiles gather on BMTC buses to read a book of their choice.

Bus reads

More of a community reading event, Bus Reads (@readintransit on Instagram) sees a group of people boarding BMTC buses to read while on the move. The idea came to Sahana Srikant on her long commute from her home in Banashankari to her Sarjapur Road office. "I use this time to read and I thought it would be great to get some people together to do the same," says Sahana.

Introduced in late 2025, the events are typically held on Sundays. The group boards the V500D bus at the Silk Board bus depot. The route takes commuters through HSR Layout, Iblur and Sarjapur Road. Usually, the bus rides are paired with on-ground events. In the last edition, the group disembarked at Kalyan Nagar. The readers participated in an 'imaginarium', organised by Greenpeace India, where they were asked to imagine a positive future for the city. "Sometimes, after the ride, we also visit a bookstore or spend time at a lake," she shares. Sahana ran a pilot in November last year. "One person showed up," she recalls. Now, an average of 13-15 people attend. Participation is capped at 20 and the group boards at the bus depot to ensure everyone gets a seat.

The rides, usually on the newer AC buses, attract a mix of people, including those interested in mobility and public transport. The books read on these commutes are as diverse as the people who participate — from 'The Metamorphosis' by Franz Kafka to 'Slaughterhouse-Five' by Kurt Vonnegut.

Food and stories

The Women Who Cook Club is yet to have its first meeting. The club was conceptualised by chef Sreya Vittaldev who goes by @darthdevi on X. Her post calling for applications, on February 21, was reposted 26 times and has already received over 100 responses. Participants will be added to a WhatsApp group where they will decide on a theme and a date. Each attendee will cook a recipe from a cookbook under the theme chosen and bring the book and dish along to the meet-up. They will talk about the recipe, culinary traditions, and the book.

Book A Table will host its first meet-up on March 1. The supper and book club (@book_a_table on Instagram) is organised by sisters Shachi and Kriti Srivastava. The duo plans to host a maximum of 12 participants at their home once a month. The first edition will see a discussion of the 'Bridgerton' book series by author Julia Quinn. The food, inspired by the series, will include scones, tea and tea-based cocktails, among other dishes.

POPCORN

Behind bars

A village called Motipura in Gujarat has built a private jail — it is actually an iron cage — to punish the drinking sorts. If caught drunk, you are locked up in the cage, and the cage is moved out of the village if you are loud and boisterous (yeah, only paseena comes when you sing those loud haseena songs). The fine to get out is Rs 1,200. Don't know what the punishment is if you sing 'Hungama hain kyun burpa...' Arre, stop burping, bro.

Amadeus back on stage next week

SATHVI G BHAT
TEAM METROLIFE

Arjun Sajnani's revival of Peter Shaffer's 'Amadeus' is all set for another run this March, following the success of its February debut. The play is a contemporary resurrection of Shaffer's classic, delving into the complex rivalry between musical geniuses Mozart and Salieri.

The play debuted at the Prestige Centre for Performing Arts recently. Speaking to *Metrolife*, Sajnani says, "Amadeus is a phenomenal piece of writing, it's a great play, audiences would love it. I thought I could do a great job with it, and with the kind of technology we used in the visuals and audio, the emotional impact created was high."

For the actors, the revival is as much a feast for the senses as it is a dramatic challenge. Darius Sunawala (Mozart) says, "This play is hard to dilute down to a single word; where the themes of betrayal, love, and obsession are woven into a single knot of a play that holds relevance even today."

While Sunawala sees the play as the essence of the human condition, Vivek Madan (Salieri) finds that the play resonates with divinity and art.

"Shaffer is a master of his craft, and this is by far the most challenging part I have played," Madan adds.

From March 6-8, 7.30 pm, Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Malleswaram. Tickets online.

Peter Shaffer's Amadeus is a play on the life of Mozart and his arch-rival, Antonio Salieri.

Four unique Holi accessories under Rs1,000

TEAM METROLIFE

Holi gulaal bomb box

This harmless-looking, impractical joke box splashes organic gulaal when opened. Perfect for friends and family who enjoy a good laugh. Rs 399 on fnp.com

Silver Holi mini pichkari and bucket gift box

This set of two Holi decor pieces is crafted from German silver and includes one balti (bucket) and one functional pichkari (water gun). Rs 495 on nestasia.in

The festive splash Holi gift set

In this gift box, you will get thandai powder packets, three gulaal colours, and a golden balti and pichkari set. Rs 849 on fnp.com

Clean up

This set comprises a bath soap, face wash, and detergent specially designed to remove colour stains from skin and garments. It also includes two packs of Holi colours. Rs 799 on gharsoaps.com

Music museum looking for youth advisors

The Indian Music Experience Museum, J P Nagar, has opened applications for the sixth cohort of its Youth Advisory Board, inviting students aged 14 to 17 to join the initiative. The programme allows participants to contribute to IME's programmes, communications and outreach efforts. Selected members will serve a 10-month term from March to December 2026, with a mandatory commitment of five to six hours per week. The deadline to apply is March 2.

Apply at indianmusicexperience.org

Play on life and times of T P Kailasam

Indian Heritage Academy, Koramangala, in collaboration with Azim Premji University, will present 'Kailasamsaara', a Kannada comic play that celebrates the wit and legacy of playwright T P Kailasam, on February 28, 6.30 pm, at the Academy.

Featuring Sunder and Veena Sundar, the production will bring together scenes from Kailasam's plays, his trademark humour, and anecdotes from his life. Entry is free. Register at indianheritageacademy.org.

100 Kerala photos on display at NGMA

Lenscape Kerala', an exhibition featuring 100 works by 10 acclaimed photographers from across India, opens at the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) today.

Presented by NGMA and Kerala Tourism, the exhibition brings together images produced during a five-day journey across north, central and south Kerala. The show is curated by art critic Uma Nair and directed by photographer Balan Madhavan.

Thirty of the works, by three photographers, are in black and white. "When you look at a black and white photograph, expression is everything," Uma says.

Among the highlights, panoramic photographer Amit Pasricha captures the backwaters of Alappuzha and the intricate woodwork of a 1,000-year-old mosque in Kottayam. Manoj Arora presents monochrome works of Thiruvananthapuram's heritage, including Kuthiramalika Palace and the Padmanabhaswamy Temple, while Kounteya Sinha documents Theyyam dancers in paddy fields. Wildlife photographer Shivang Mehta showcases portraits of owls, spiders and monkeys that Uma describes as "astounding".

The participating photographers also include H Satish, Saurabh Anand Chatterjee, Saibal Das, Umesh Gogna, Aishwarya Sridhar and Natasha Kartar Hemarajani.

Lenscape Kerala, February 27 to March 1, 11 am to 7 pm, at NGMA, Palace Road. Entry free.

EVENTS

Open mic

The next edition of 'Jagriti Open Mic Saturdays', an event for people to showcase their talents in poetry, storytelling, music or comedy, is scheduled for February 28, 5.30 pm, at Jagriti Theatre, Whitefield. Entry free.

Science Café

Ste=mc² and Atta Galatta are hosting 'Science Café' on March 1, from 4 pm to 6 pm, at Atta Galatta, Indiranagar, on the eve of National Science Day. It will feature free-wheeling conversations about stories, poems and books related to science and scientific discoveries. Entry free. For details, call 96325 10126.

Foothpath walk

Hejje Gala, the Greater Bengaluru Corporate Mobility Challenge, a city-wide active mobility challenge, is hosting the Whitefield Footpath Walk. Participants can sign up for the 3K, 5K and 10K categories. On March 1, 7.30 am, Phoenix Marketcity, Mahadevpura. Entry free. Registration mandatory. For details, visit @walkaluru on Instagram.

How seniors can beat loneliness, stay active

Bengaluru groups promote socialising, upskilling and support for seniors

TINI SARA ANIEN
TEAM METROLIFE

With many battling empty-nest syndrome and a significant number of older Bengalureans living by themselves, loneliness is a widespread concern among the city's elderly, say groups for senior citizens.

Metrolife spoke to three such groups that help seniors upskill and socialise.

Hybrid support

As seniors grow more digitally confident, platforms such as Happy60plus, founded by Sunita Dube, are blending online engagement with on-ground services.

With over 11,000 registered members nationwide, about 65% from Bengaluru, it caters to those above 55.

"Morning online sessions focus on physical wellness, evening sessions on interactive activities such as bhajans, quizzes and webinars on financial and emotional wellbeing, while night sessions include guided chants and yoga nidra (meditation that induces relaxation)," says Sunita.

The group organises day outings in Bengaluru, and curates domestic and international travel with a designated "buddy".

While some app services are free, a monthly plan of Rs 1,299 is required for online wellness sessions.

Call 80882 51955 or check @Happy60plus on Instagram.

A freestyle dance class organised by Silver Surfers.

Subscriber-based services

Founded in 2014 by Dipti Varma Narain, 'Silver Surfers' is a subscriber-based collective with around 200 members, nearly 80% from Bengaluru. It is open to people above 55.

The group hosts three to four engagements a month, from breakfast meet-ups and park walks to focused 'Silver Circles' where members revisit hobbies. "There are singers' and writers' groups, crochet and mahjong circles, and a bridge club," she says. A short story anthology by members is in the works.

Upskilling sessions have included terrace gardening, coffee tasting and Spanish language classes, Dipti adds. Members recently knitted 75 beanies for children undergoing cancer treatment and donated them at Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology.

Trips are organised every two to three months, from the Andamans to Antarctica.

Annual membership costs about Rs 5,000 plus GST and covers around 80% of activities. For the rest, one can pay per event.

Visit thesilversurfersclub.in

Exclusively for women

Founded in 2024 by Indira Prabhakar Reddy, Super Seenagers began with 22 women and has grown to over 350 members across Bengaluru.

The voluntary collective aims to "create a non-judgemental environment for all," says Indira. Nearly 85 to 90% of members are single, while others are empty nesters. "Monthly events range from festival celebrations to health and fitness sessions, and often end with games and dancing," she adds.

Travel is a defining feature. "Anybody is free to plan any trip, event or meetup," she says. Members have travelled to Vietnam, New Zealand and Bali, and to destinations closer home, such as Kerala, Meghalaya, and Andhra Pradesh.

The group, with members aged 50 to 84, also has interest-based subgroups for trekking, music, spirituality, a book club, and a matrimonial subgroup for members' unmarried children.

Check Super Seenagers Ladies Group on Facebook.

CCB launches drive to trace illegal foreigners

BENGALURU, DHNS: Central Crime Branch teams on Wednesday launched a special drive to identify foreign nationals staying illegally in the city.

The drive, under the direction of Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh, involves Deputy Commissioners of Police of all divisions and their teams conducting searches at suspected locations and verifying visa status and registration details with the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO).

Nearly 2,000 foreign nationals were questioned on Wednesday as part of the drive, and some were found to be staying without valid documents.

Police are initiating legal action against those who have overstayed visas or are residing without proper documentation. Deportation proceedings will be initiated.

Verification is also underway to check if any foreign nationals are involved in illegal activities, a senior police officer said.

House owners have been directed to submit details of foreign nationals staying on their premises, including visa and FRRO details, to the jurisdictional police station.

Police said the drive aims to maintain law and order in the city and will continue in the coming days. Citizens have been urged to share information on suspicious foreign nationals with nearby police stations.

Man run over by speeding car

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 57-year-old shopkeeper was killed after a speeding car ran him over near Byatarayanapura Junction on Thursday morning.

The driver fled the scene after the accident.

The deceased, Nagaraja, resided in Amruthahalli's Ashwathakatte Road and ran a provision store.

Property deals in state likely to get costlier from April

Revision in guidance value to come into force from April 1

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

Property transactions across Karnataka are likely to become costlier from April 1, as the state government is taking steps to revise the guidance value of land and buildings.

The average increase in the guidance value is likely to be anywhere between 15% and 20%, sources said, though a final decision is yet to be taken.

The move will directly impact stamp duty and registration charges. The revision, which seeks to account for the increase in market rates, comes at a time when the government is staring at a revenue shortfall from property registrations.

Sources in the government told *DH* that the Department of Stamps and Registration has been asked to roll out the revised guidance value on April 1. It has also directed the department to complete the formalities and publish the draft guidance value at the earliest.

A senior government official said the rules allow for a revision of the guidance value every year, given that property prices continue to rise. However, the last revision was effected in October 2023, the official said.

It is learnt that the Central Valuation Committee, which is authorised to fix the guidance value, met on January 12, setting in motion the revision process.

Officials involved in the exercise said the proposed hike is needed to reduce the gap between market rate and government prices, adding that the revision is nothing to do with the revenue shortfall.

"We had initially set a target of earning Rs 28,000 crore, but it was reduced to Rs 25,000 crore, given the issues in registering properties after e-khata was made mandatory. Now, we are short of revenue by Rs 3,000 crore, and the shortfall will be covered in the next month," the officer said, adding many people tend to register property by the end of the financial year to minimise capital gains tax.

An upward revision in guidance value would increase the minimum transaction value for property registrations.

Currently, the government charges 5% of the guidance value as stamp duty, 2% as registration fee, and 0.60% as cess and surcharge. In total, property buyers pay 7.60% in duties and cess.

Suresh Hari, former secretary of CREDAI, said the increase in guidance value was acceptable, but it should not be used as a yardstick for calculating stamp duty. "If it is kept as the yardstick, registration costs would go up."

Rowdy-sheeter hacked to death in front of mother

Gang attacks Pavan Kumar with lethal weapons; flees after confirming his death

BENGALURU, DHNS

A 28-year-old rowdy-sheeter was hacked to death by a group of men in front of his mother in Sampigehalli police station limits on Wednesday night.

The attack is suspected to be over old enmity.

The deceased has been identified as Pavan Kumar (28), a rowdy-sheeter from the DJ Halli police station limits. He was running a bakery in Rajanukunte and residing at Amara Jyothi Layout in Thanisandra with his parents.

A senior police officer said the incident took place around 9 pm. A group of unidentified men arrived on three motorcycles wearing helmets and followed Pavan, who was about to park his two-wheeler near his house.

"The gang attacked him with lethal weapons," the officer said.

Pavan's mother Komala Devaraj witnessed the incident and pleaded with the attackers to leave him.

After confirming his death, the gang fled. The Sampigehalli police were alerted. The body was shifted for postmortem following a spot inspection.

Based on a complaint from Komala, the Sampigehalli police have registered a case of murder. A special team has been formed to trace the suspects. Police said Pavan was involved in three criminal cases, including a murder in 2023. He had started the bakery recently.

Free auto driving, skill development training for women & transgenders

BENGALURU, DHNS: Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy on Thursday inaugurated a free auto driving and skill development training programme for women and transgender persons at BTM Layout, in collaboration with BPAC and CGI.

He said the government would hold discussions on introducing additional schemes and facilities for the welfare of auto drivers, and appropriate steps would be taken after the state budget.

He hoped that providing free auto driving training to women and transgender persons would help them become economically self-reliant.

Under the CSR initiative, BPAC and CGI have imparted free professional training to more than 500 women and transgender persons in nine assembly constituencies.

The initiative will be expanded to all assembly constituencies in the coming days.

SPECIAL BRANCH
POLICE HEADQUARTER, M.P., BHOPAL

NO. SB/Store/2026-25 (113) Bhopal, Dated: 18-02-2026

"ONLINE E-TENDER NOTICE"

E-tender are invited by Assistant Inspector General of Police, Special Branch (G) M.P., Bhopal on behalf of DGP MP Bhopal for the following item on website https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app:-

Sl. No	Name of Item(s)	Qty.	Tender Fees (Rs.)	EMD (Rs.)	Tender No.
			Paid Online Through mptenders.gov.in		
1	Smart Lecture Hall	01	2,000/-	24,000/-	2nd Tender

1. Cost of tender document (Tender Fee) is non refundable and cannot be exempted in any condition & **must submit online through website** https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app.
2. Tender document can be download from the website of MP Police (www.mppolice.gov.in)
3. Bids shall be submitted online only at MP Tenders website: https://mptenders.gov.in /nicgep/app

Tender Schedule:

No	Tender Activity	Date & Time
i	E-Tender Publish Date	19/02/2026 at 1700 hrs.
ii	Tender document download Start Date	19/02/2026 at 1730 hrs.
iii	Submission of written queries - through e-mail: **aigg-sb@mppolice.gov.in**	**23/02/2026 at 1700 hrs.**
iv	Pre Bid Meeting along with written queries	24/02/2026 at 1200 hrs.
v	Bid Submission Start Date	28/02/2026 at 1000 hrs.
vi	Last date of online e-Tender submission	09/03/2026 up to 1600 hrs.
vii	Bid will be opened on	10/03/2026 up to 1600 hrs.
viii	Demonstration from	Demo date will be announced separately

5. Intending Bidders are advised to visit this website regularly till closing date of submission to keep themselves updated as any change/ modification in the tender will be intimated through this web site only by corrigendum/addendum/ amendment.
6. Bids will be opened as per date/time as mentioned in the Tender Critical Date Sheet. After online opening of Technical-Bid the results of their qualification as well Price- Bid opening will be intimated later.

D.I.G. of Police
Intelligence (G) M.P. Bhopal
Tel. No. 0755- 2443654

G-26461/25

Rail Wheel Plant/Bela
(Distt. - Saran), Bihar 841221

E-Open Tender Notice No.:- S/RWP/E/ 2025-26/20, dated : 25.02.2026
Principal Chief Materials Manager/Rail Wheel Plant, Bela for and on behalf of the **President of India** invites **online "e-Open Tender"**, through Indian Railways E-Procurement Website **www.ireps.gov.in** for supply of following Stores item at RWP/ Bela. The Closing time of all tenders is 14:00 hrs.
SN. 1. Tender No. 01251101, **Short Description of item :** Liquid Petroleum, **Quantity:** 6000 MT, **Date of Tender Closing/Opening:** 09/03/2026 at 14:00 Hrs. **SN. 2. Tender No.** 01241102, **Short Description of item :** Liquid Oxygen Gas, **Quantity:** 4428000 Kgs, **Date of Tender Closing/Opening:** 13/03/2026 at 14:00 Hrs. **1.** Website address, on which full tender details can be seen and downloaded from, is **www.ireps.gov.in. 2.** The prospective firms/bidders submitting bid are advised to remain in touch with the above website for updates including Addendum/ Corrigendum/ Cancellation with respect to the above tender.
Principal Chief Materials Manager/RWP/Bela
RWP/CPRO/Advt/2025-26/114

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No.: B/TRD.2025-26/45
Dated: 20.02.2026
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Provision of Second Transformer bay at Yelahanka/TSS (YNK).	Rs. 1,63,83,584/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 13.03.2026**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/ Traction Distribution/Bengaluru
PUB/925/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the **RailOne** app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform tickets, and season passes, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at their fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through **RailOne** app, and enjoy up to a **3%** discount.
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

S. E. RAILWAY SCRAP SALE THROUGH E-AUCTION
No. SER/HQ-STOR0SALE(DSPL)/1/2025-26 SALE/6 Dated: 25/02/2026
Revised E-Auction Programme

Division/Depot	Actual e-auction date	Postponed E-auction to be held on
KGP DEPOT	On 10.03.2026	11.03.2026

NB: Please visit website: **www.ireps.gov.in/e-Auction** for details of e-Auction schedule and Catalogue.
(PR-1240/C) Principal Chief Materials Manager/Garden Reach
South Eastern Railway
We serve with a smile

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Auction for leasing of Parcel Space, Parking & Advertising and Miscellaneous Contracts by Bengaluru Division
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites bidders for E-Auctions on the following Dates:
1. **Parking & Pay and Use:** 05.03.2026, 06.03.2026
2. **Parcel:** 04.03.2026, 06.03.2026, 09.03.2026
3. **Advertising, ATM & Misc:** 04.03.2026, 05.03.2026
4. **Multi Utility Hub at Whitefield:** 06.03.2026
5. **Storage Facility at Parcel Office:** 04.03.2026
6. **Parking with other permitted commercial Activities at KSR Bengaluru City Railway Station:** 05.03.2026.

For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in
Keep visiting the website for any corrigendum till closing date
Senior Divisional Commercial Manager
PUB/923/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2024-25 Bengaluru
Download the **RailOne** app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform tickets, and season passes, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at their fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through **RailOne** app, and enjoy up to a **3%** discount.
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
CORRIGENDUM-1 to
Tender Notice No. SGW-S-203-HDG-599956-25/1
Dated: 03.02.2026
Corrigendum Notice-1 dt: 25.02.2026 Hot dip Galvanizing with Shot /Sand Blasting for Ground connections of IRS point machine 143 mm stroke, 220 mm stroke, Cable Clamp Assembly for Sleepers & Bridge clamp assembly for sleepers for S&T Workshop, Podanur for a period of one year

Field Name	Existing Date	Modified Date
Tender Closing Date and Time	26.02.2026 15:00	02.03.2026 15:00

The tenders have been uploaded in Tender Portal **http://www.ireps.gov.in**
Dy.CSTE/S&T/PTJ For Chief Workshop Manager, S&T Workshop, Podanur.

झारखण्ड सरकार
भवन निर्माण विभाग

का०आ०सं०–भ०नि०यो०–1–28 / 01–326राँची / दिनांकः–26.02.2026

शुद्धि–पत्र

PR 370699 (Building) 25-26 (D), दिनांक–16.01.2026 को प्रकाशित अभिरुचि आमंत्रण सूचना में भवन निर्माण विभाग के लिए वास्तुविद् (आर्किटेक्ट) का पैनल तैयार करने हेतु ऑनलाइन आवेदन समर्पित करने / त्रुटियों के सुधार करने हेतु दिनांक–05.03.2026 अपराह्न 05:30 बजे तक विस्तारित किया जाता है।

For more information kindly visit bcd.jharkhand.gov.in

अभियंता प्रमुख,
भवन निर्माण विभाग

PR 373708 Building(25-26)#D

Government of Jharkhand
Department of Information Technology and e-Governance
Jharkhand Mantralaya, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004

Tender Notice

On behalf of the Government of Jharkhand, the **Department of Information Technology & e-Governance** invites **reverse bids** (Technical and Commercial) from UIDAI empanelled ASA Service providers to provide Aadhaar Authentication Services to the Authentication User Agency (AUA)/e-KYC User Agency (KUA) - Department of IT & e-Governance, Government of Jharkhand.

Only UIDAI approved and Live ASA Service Providers are allowed to participate in this bid. The list of UIDAI approved Live ASA Service Provider as on 19.11.2024 may be downloaded from UIDAI website (https://uidai.gov.in//images/Live_ASA_List_19112024.pdf**).**

For the bidding process, the bidders shall follow the procedure described on e-Tendering website (**https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in**). Further details about the e-Tendering procedure & its requirements, refer manual available on e-Tendering website.

The tender document will be available on the e-Tendering website and may be downloaded by the interested bidders.

The bidders are required to submit the amount of EMD as per provisions of e-tendering Portal. Without submission of EMD, bid shall be considered incomplete & nonresponsive and shall not be considered.

The summary of tender notice is as follows:

S.No.	Item	Particulars
1	Tender Reference No.	UIDAI/ASAService/1/2026-UID/001
2	Project Description	Selection of UIDAI Empanelled Authentication Service Agency (ASA) for providing ASA Services
3	Bid Security (EMD)	Rupees Twenty Five Thousand Only (Rs.25,000/-)
4	Name & Address of Tender Issuing Authority	Joint Secretary, Department of IT & e-Governance, 3rd Floor, Project Bhawan, Dhurwa, Ranchi – 834004
5	Pre-Bid Conference (Date, Time & Place)	09.03.2026 at 16:00 hrs. Department of IT & e-Governance, 3rd Floor, Project Bhawan, Dhurwa, Ranchi – 834004
6	Date & Time Availability of Tender Document	26.02.2026 at 13:00 hrs.
7	Start Date of Bid Submission	11.03.2026 at 16:00 hrs.
8	Last date and time for online submission of technical & financial bids	18.03.2026 at 16:00 hrs.
9	Date & Time of opening of Technical Bid	20.03.2026 at 16:30 hrs.
10	Date & Time of opening of Financial Bid	To be informed later
11	Phone	0651 – 2970091
12	Email Address for queries	uidcellpmu-doit@jharkhandmail.gov.in
13	Mode of bidder selection	L1 basis

PR 373682 Information Technology (25-26)_D

Sd/-
Joint Secretary to Government

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West by	Property in Survey No. 29,
North by	Property in Survey No. 4/1,
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Mr. S T Prashantha Kumar, Advocate & Senior Partner
Fox Mandal & Associates
"FM House", 6/12, Primrose Road, Bangalore 560 025
Phone : +91 80 2559 5911. e-mail: bangalore@foxmandal.in

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 27/2026/SBC Dated: 20.02.2026
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders through IREPS only for supply of following items:

Tender No.	Description in Brief
L8256585A	Supply, installation, testing and comissioning of Control Transformer as per RDSO Specification No. RDSO/PE/SPEC/AC/0203-2020 (Rev.0) & RDSO Letter No. EL/7.1.108/Mail File Dt. 16.04.2021. **(Qty. 1050 Nos.)**

Last date for Submission/Tender Due on: **Upto 10:30 Hrs. on 18.03.2026**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
PUB/929/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Senior Divisional Materials Manager, Bengaluru**
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SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
Tender Notice No. TBM-SG-CN-2025-26-11-OT Dated: 23/02/2026
(TWO PACKET SYSTEM)
For and on behalf of The President of India, The Deputy Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Construction, Southern Railway, Tambaram invites e-tender for the following works:

Name of Work	Provision of Electronic Interlocking Signalling Arrangements (Both Indoor and Outdoor) at Rameshwaram Yard in connection with Proposed construction of New Platform Line Road 5 with yard Modification and construction of Pit Line
Cash value in (Rs.)	**174435625.88**
Bid Security /EMD in (Rs.)	**10,22,200.00**
Last Date and time of submission of e-Tender through IREPS site	17/03/2026
Cost of Tender Document (Rs.)	0
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Tenderers can view full details of tender and submit their offer at the e-tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in** of Indian Railways.
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Dy. CHIEF SIGNAL & TELECOMMUNICATION
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On behalf of The President of India

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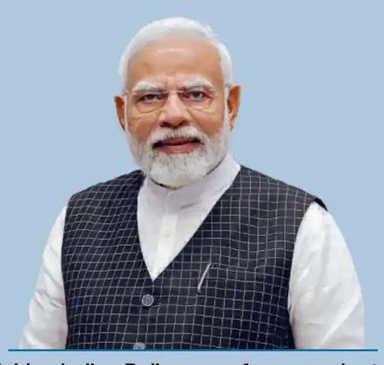

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by
V. Somanna
Union Minister of State for Railways and Jal Shakti

27th February 2026
Shettihalli 01:10 PM
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Female actor among 11 held for kidnap, assault on debut film director

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Adugodi police have arrested a gang of 11 persons, including a female actor, for allegedly kidnapping a budding film director, brutally assaulting him with cricket stumps and hockey sticks, and robbing him of gold ornaments and cash.

The arrested have been identified as Ashirvad alias Ashi (26), Lakshminarayana (36), Sujan V (21), Charan S (26), Arsalan (20), Mohammed Arif (31), Druva J (26), Sanjay N (24), Shahid Ahmed (21), Riyan alias Babu (20), and Aishwarya (30). Some of the accused run their own businesses and others are students in a private colleges.

A senior police officer said that the kidnap and attack took place on February 9 and a 31-year-old victim, a native of Tamil Nadu had sustained multiple injuries on his hands and legs. Based on his complaint, a case of kidnapping and robbery was registered at Adugodi police station on February 11.

Preliminary investigations revealed that the complainant had directed a film which is yet to be released. A dispute arose between Ashirvad, and Lakshminarayana who had invested money in the film over financial matters. About two months ago, the director had shifted from Bengaluru to Mumbai. During this period, he informed actor Aishwarya residing in Indiranagar that he was planning to sell his car in Bengaluru. Ashirvad came to know about this through the actress and offered to help him sell the vehicle. On February 9, they called him to the city and he arrived.

The gang kidnapped him in a car and took him to a house in Byadarahalli where he was brutally assaulted. They robbed the gold ornaments he was wearing and Rs 30,000 in cash, the police officer said.

Later, the accused took him in a car to Mandaragiri Hill in Tumakuru, where two more persons joined them and again assaulted him and threatened him with dire consequences and not to reveal the incident to police or any person. The accused later demanded Rs 5 lakh from the victim before admitting him in a hospital, and escaped.

The Adugodi police were alerted about the incident and the victim lodged a complaint after narrating the incident. Police swung into action and secured 11 accused persons, including Aishwarya who allegedly played a key role in luring the victim to Bengaluru. Six mobile phones that were used to commit the offence, gold ornaments and a car were seized from the gang. They were later remanded in judicial custody after the interrogation. Further investigations are on.

Guv approves internal quota bill; ball back in govt's court

Focus shifts on how govt will defend it in high court

BENGALURU, DHNS

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot on Thursday gave assent to the Karnataka Scheduled Castes (Sub-Classification) Bill, 2025, also known as the internal reservation bill, paving the way for the state government to proceed with recruitments.

The governor's assent came through after a delegation of SC and ST Ministers, led by Home Minister G Parameshwara, rushed to the Lok Bhavan and met him to explain the urgency of clearing the bill.

Earlier in the day, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah went into a huddle with SC and ST ministers to discuss the strategy to end the logjam, as the bill is also under judicial scrutiny.

The Siddaramaiah government has come under pressure after the massive protest of job aspirants in Dharwad earlier this week over the long delay in recruitment to the 2.84 lakh vacancies. The governor had returned the bill, unanimously passed by the Legislative Assembly last December, seeking clarifications over concerns raised by nomadic (Alemari) SC communities regarding the 6-6-5 formula.

The Alemari community has challenged the reservation formula in the high court as the bill divides the existing 17% SC quota into three groups (6-6-5 formula) - Madigas and 15 affiliated castes get 6 per cent reservation (Group A), Holeyas and 18 affiliated castes also get 6 per cent reservation (Group B) and Lambani, Bhovi, Korma, Korcha and 59 'most backward' (Alemari) communities get 5 per cent (Group C).

This internal quota would apply during recruitment and admissions to state-run educational institutions. The Alemari community has opposed their inclusion in Group C alongside Lambanis, Bhovis, Kormas and Korchas and are seeking a separate 1 per cent quota.

The Siddaramaiah government has come under pressure after the massive protest of job aspirants in Dharwad earlier this week

Eighteen months after the landmark August 2024 judgment of the Supreme Court of India permitting sub-classification within Scheduled Castes for equitable distribution of benefits, the Siddaramaiah government, allegedly cash-strapped, is grappling with the reservation formula.

The latest challenge is the recent interim order of the high court that has restricted the government from issuing new recruitment notifications based on the enhanced SC/ST quota (as the total reservation crosses the 50% reservation cap).

It has permitted the government to continue recruitment processes, but directed that all appointments would be subject to the outcome of the case.

The government has a long way to go before setting the recruitment process in motion. While the governor's nod allows for the bill to be notified as an act, the big question is whether the government can effectively defend its reservation formula in court.

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PERSONAL

Change of Name

I, G. RAGHURAM, Aged 49 years, S/o. Golakaram Venkateswara Rao, residing at 001, Sai Orchid Apartment, 4th Cross, Venkatadri Layout, Doresanipalya, J.P.Nagar, 7th Phase, Bangalore South, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore, Karnataka 560076, hereby declare that I have changed my minor daughter's name from G. Kavya Krishita Naidu to Golakaram Kavya Krishita Naidu vide affidavit dated 25.02.2026 sworn before K.P. Sumangala, Advocate & Notary Public, Bengaluru.

I MOHAMMED Basheer Ahmed So Abdul Hai Naikodi Ro Sagar Yadgir have change my name Mohammed Baseer Ahmed.

I UDAYASHRI KASHIRAM SIRSILLA D/O BHAGWAN BALE R/O 306-Sai Balaji Residency Belathur Main Road, Kadugodi Whitefield, Bangalore-560067. have changed my name to UDAYASHRI KASHIRAM SIRISILLA, vide affidavit dated 17.02.2026 before advocate and notary Yankoba, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, ANANDA KUMAR H P, residing at No. 20B, 8th Main, 5th Cross, Bhuvaneshwarinagar, Near SBI Bank, T Dasarahalli, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru-560057, have changed my name to ANAND KUMAR H P vide affidavit dated 26-02-2026 before notary Meer Hassan, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called ANAND KUMAR H P only

Lost

DOCUMENT LOST
I, Hemanth Kumar N, S/o Nagi Reddy, R/at # 54, 12th A Cross, Kodandarampura , Malleswaram, Bangalore-03, have lost the Original Sale Deeds and Original Katha Certificate (Document No / Identification : 1) BDA -1-02035-2023-24, Arkavathy 19th Block Sr. 15, Challakere, Site No. 1197. 2) BDA -1-02036-2023-24, Arkavathy 3rd Block Sr. 31 & 32/1, Sampigehalli, Site No. SH290. 3) BDA-1-02034-2023-24, Arakavathi 3rd Block Sr. 31 & 32/1, Sampigehalli, Site No. SH291. Regarding this i have given a police complaint (Lost of Report No. 2043750/2026) on 04.02.2026, while shifting residence. If found please Contact: 9632925286.

Students boycott classes demanding revocation of the FIR against Spark Reading Circle, on the Azim Premji University's Sarjapur campus in Bengaluru on Thursday. PHOTO BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT.

APU protest: Students demand revocation of FIR against Spark Reading Circle

BENGALURU, DHNS: Two hundred students of Azim Premji University (APU), Sarjapur Road campus, boycotted classes and staged a protest on Thursday, demanding immediate withdrawal of an FIR against Spark Reading Circle, a student community at the university.

The protest followed the university's decision to pursue criminal charges against its students in the wake of a discussion announced recently by Spark Reading Circle, affiliated with All India Students' Association (AISA), on the 1991 Kunan Pashpora mass rape in Kashmir. The university said "the event did not happen" and protesters were "misinformed".

The event was disrupted ABVP members, who blackened name board of the varsity outside the main gate and wrote "Ban Spark" on the university premises, vandalised property, shouted slogans and assaulted security guards and students.

The Student Council and members of AISA slammed the university administration for 'disproportionate response'. Twenty-five ABVP activists were released on bail. But students behind Spark Reading Circle face non-bailable charges, they said.

The FIR, that followed a complaint by the varsity registrar, invokes Sec 299 of BNS, concerning acts intended to outrage religious feelings and Sec 67 of IT Act, 2008.

A statement from APU Student Council read. "To respond to critical thinking with an FIR undermines intellectual freedom".

In its complaint, the varsity said it had no knowledge of the event and that such "unauthorised" activities compromise safety of the campus.

DCM reiterates guarantees are a 'burden', but will continue

'Some women have come forward to give up the benefits'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, on Thursday, reiterated that the five guarantees were a 'burden' on the state government, but there was no question of discontinuing them.

The debate over whether the Karnataka government's flagship guarantee schemes are a financial burden intensified after the ruling party leaders expressed contrasting views on the sustainability of these programmes.

Shivakumar had previously stated that the guarantees were a 'burden' but the Congress government hoped to empower the people financially and make them 'mentally strong'.

Shivakumar

"There is no question of stopping the guarantee schemes. Our government is financially sound. Some women have come forward to give up the benefits stating they are well off. There have been instances of instalments being paid to deceased beneficiaries. We might weed out such cases only," added Shivakumar.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah played down his deputy's admission that the schemes were a burden, and said, "Perhaps, he (DCM) meant the schemes cost around Rs 52,000 crore annually, and we have spent around Rs 1.2 lakh crore."

Home Minister G Parameshwara, who was the 2023 Assembly manifesto committee chairman, defended the schemes and said it was 'collective' decision to implement the guarantees. Referring to recent remarks by KPCC president about financial strain, Parameshwara said the leadership would discuss the issue internally.

Industries Minister M B Patil rejected the argument that guarantees impacted development and called the guarantee schemes a 'key part' of development. "These were promises made to the poor before the elections and are being implemented accordingly," he said.

Meanwhile, Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy claimed the 'Karnataka model' of welfare was under financial stress.

He alleged that pending payments, including nearly Rs 5,000 crore under the Gruha Lakshmi scheme, indicate strain. "If not for the BJP raising the issue, the government would have discontinued the guarantees. Now instalments are being skipped," he mocked.

Limit guarantee schemes to poor only: Hariprasad

Senior Congress leader B K Hariprasad, on Thursday, said that the state government should remove affluent people from the list of beneficiaries of the five guarantee schemes.

"I have been suggesting to the government that it should not give benefits of guarantee schemes to income tax payers. Instead, these schemes should focus only on the poor," he told reporters in New Delhi.

The union government has already withdrawn gas subsidy benefits given to taxpayers.

"Even Prime Minister Narendra Modi called upon the rich people to give up gas subsidy," Hariprasad said.

"There is nothing wrong in removing rich people from the list of those receiving these benefits. The purpose of announcing guarantee schemes was to uplift the poor and help them economically. The government should focus on the welfare of the poor and give benefits to them," he said.

ANNAVRU FOREVER

Sampattige Savaal, Rajkumar hit from 1974, released again

Matinee idol, Manjula impressed all in flick that questioned authority

PRANATI A S
BENGALURU, DHNS

Kannada movie buffs turned nostalgic with the re-release of Rajkumar's 1974 movie 'Sampattige Savaal'.

The film hit screens on February 20 at select theatres in Bengaluru.

It ran to packed houses at Prasanna theatre on Magadi Road last weekend.

Fans cheered as hit songs from the movie played out on the screen—'Yaare koogadali', 'Raja muddu Raja'. They also applauded the hilarious confrontation scene between Manjula and Rajkumar.

The year 1974 is known as the golden year of Kannada cinema. The industry experienced a watershed moment with many critically acclaimed and commercially successful films that year.

Directed by A V Seshagiri Rao, 'Sampattige Savaal' was an adaptation of the play 'Saahukara' by B P Dhuttharagi.

Rajkumar plays Veerabhadra, the carefree son of a woodcutter who rebels against the village landlord. The film was released when the Left movement was gaining prominence.

Rajkumar's character was seen as representing the working class.

"In many ways, the film gave a commercial touch to the Bandaya (protest) literary movement. 'Sampattige Savaal' was discussed at many Leftist forums as a communist movie that questioned authority," says film historian K Puttaswamy.

Fifty two years after its release, the film made its way back to theatres in a digitally restored, technically upgraded format.

Elders viewed the song 'Yaare koogaadali' as a reflection of Rajkumar's simplicity—he was a towering star, but he did not hesitate to ride a buffalo and sing its praises.

Film critic N Manu Chakravarthy says the song was a significant juxtaposition, one that validated the desi tradition, long sidelined in favour of the more formal marga tradition.

When the film was still in production, in a hilarious turn of events, the owner of the buffalo, eager to make a quick profit from its fame, sold it off, prompting the makers to go on in frantic search of a similar looking buffalo.

Posters and cutouts of 'Sampattige Savaal' at Prasanna theatre in Bengaluru, which is showing the 1974 hit film. Its upgraded version was released on February 20.

With the song, Rajkumar became a full fledged singer. "It led to the displacement of P B Srinivas and pushed Rajkumar as a singer. He was groomed well in Gubbi Veeranna's theatre troupe, which had helped him develop strong voice control," says Chakravarthy.

At a time when daughters-in-law in movies were characterised as vile, 'Sampattige Savaal' brought in the attige-maiduna (sister-in-law and brother-in-law) sentiment, says Puttaswamy, who believes that the film mainly stands on dialogues and the Rajkumar-Manjula chemistry.

"Manjula plays a 'bajari' (a tomboy and loud mouth) and she was then typecast to such roles," he adds.

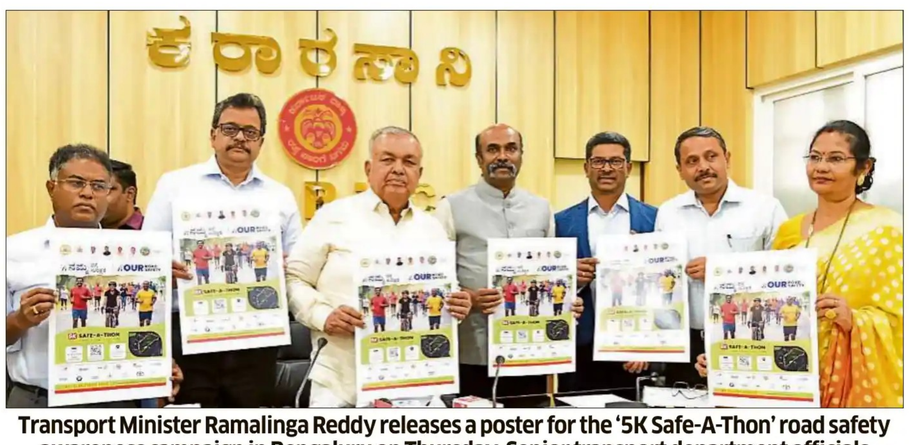
Chakravarthy says the film's narrative challenged wealth, ego and the feudal system.

"The transformation in Manjula's character is also interesting. The film had an interesting but familiar narrative, which follows the 'Taming of the Shrew' model," he adds.

10,000 job vacancies filled in transport dept since 2023: Ramalinga Reddy

Says Congress government is committed to filling vacancies

BENGALURU, DHNS



Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy releases a poster for the '5K Safe-A-Thon' road safety awareness campaign in Bengaluru on Thursday. Senior transport department officials were present. PHOTO : TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy said on Thursday that the department had filled 10,000 posts in the last two-and-a-half years.

These included 1,000 appointments on compassionate grounds that had been pending for six to seven years.

Addressing a press conference here, he criticised the opposition BJP over government job vacancy protests, pointing out that when the party was in power from 2019 to 2023, recruitment for 13,900 posts had been stopped in the Transport Department.

"Even recruitment notifications issued during our (previous) tenure (2013-2018) were put on hold during 2019–2023," he stated.

Reddy noted that during the BJP government, many examinations and recruitments were "hit by paper leaks and corruption."

Road safety campaign on March 7

He assured that the Congress government was committed to filling vacancies and pointed out that the Finance Department had already approved filling 60,000 posts. Separately, Reddy said the Transport Department, in collaboration with various departments and organisations, will conduct a '5K Safe-A-Thon' in Bengaluru on March 7 to raise public awareness about road safety.

The event, conducted under the theme of 'Our Roads – Our Safety,' aims to protect public lives, he added.

He noted that rising road accidents were alarming, with speeding, violation of traffic rules and negligence being the main causes. Creating public awareness to prevent these issues is the campaign's primary objective. He urged citizens to participate in the campaign by walking, cycling or running, and to take a pledge for safe road usage.

The event will run from 6 am to 9 am at Sree Kanteerava Stadium. Entry will be free. Participants need to register via www.saferoadskarnataka.com or by scanning the QR code.

Malabar Group expands its micro learning centres across more regions

Malabar Group is expanding its Micro Learning Centres (MLCs) across more regions as part of its ongoing efforts to rehabilitate homeless children and enable their return to formal education. The initiative focuses on providing basic learning support and structured care to children who are out of school due to social and economic challenges, with the objective of reintegrating them into mainstream education.

As part of this expansion, a week-long training programme for State and zonal coordinators and volunteers leading the MLCs is currently underway at the Malabar Group headquarters in Kuttikkattur, Kozhikode. The programme brings together domain experts and field teams to develop a structured roadmap for scaling the MLC model to new locations and strengthening operational effectiveness across existing centres.

The MLCs operate under Malabar Group's flagship social initiative, 'Hunger Free World', which aims to address hunger and educational deprivation among vulnerable sections of society. Through this programme, homeless children engaged in forced labour or who have dropped out of school, are provided with nutritious meals, basic education and support to re-enter formal schooling, along with rehabilitation and social integration assistance.

Currently, 1,534 MLCs are operational across 18 States, supporting over 64,000 children, primarily in urban slum areas. "Through our work with MLCs, we have seen the harsh realities faced by homeless children. Expanding this initiative to more regions is part of our responsibility to ensure that vulnerable children have access to food, education and a path back into the mainstream. We firmly believe that business must play an active role in creating long-term social impact, and we will continue to strengthen our efforts in this direction", says M P Ahammed, Chairman, Malabar Group.

Since inception, Malabar Group has committed five per cent of its profits to CSR initiatives. Under the 'Hunger Free World' programme, the group currently provides daily meals to over 1.15 lakh beneficiaries in India, Zambia and Ethiopia. Also, the 'Grandma Home' project offers shelter and care to under-privileged and homeless women.

Malabar Group's CSR focus areas include women empowerment, health, education and environment. To date, the group has invested over Rs 376 crores in social development programmes, impacting over 1.80 million people.

Curated by DH Brandspot

Protest for jobs: AKSSA prez, others booked for violations

DHARWAD, DHNS: A case has been registered against Akhila Karnataka State Students' Association (AKSSA) president Kanthakumar and others for violating rules during a massive protest by job aspirants held in the city on February 24, said Hubballi–Dharwad Police Commissioner N Shashikumar.

He said that violations of law were reported at Sarvamangala Circle (near Lingayat Bhavan) and Jubilee Circle. The protesters were involved in clashes with the police, obstructing duty, taking out a protest rally, changing the designated route, and staging a road blockade at Jubilee Circle.

'Permission not sought'

The organisation had not obtained police permission to hold the protest on February 24, while permission had been granted to the BJP for a separate protest. A police official said that footage recorded by five drone cameras, 20 video cameras, and CCTV cameras is being examined by a technical team, which is collecting further details.

Cabinet accepts Govinda Rao panel report on regional imbalances

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Cabinet on Thursday accepted the M Govinda Rao-led committee's report on regional imbalances that was submitted to the government on January 31.

This was informed by Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil, who briefed reporters after the Cabinet meeting.

When asked about whether recommendations from the report would be included in the upcoming 2026-27 budget on March 6, Patil said, "Naturally. It's very important and the chief minister will include it in the Budget."

The Cabinet deferred a decision on The Karnataka Freedom of Choice in Marriage and Prevention and Prohibition of Crimes in the Name of Honour and Tradition Bill, 2026, also called the Iva Nammava Iva Nammava Bill.

Patil explained that the home department's opinion had been sought on some aspects of the Bill. The Karnataka Rohith Vemula Bill, which seeks to prevent caste-based discrimination in education institutions, was also deferred to the next Cabinet meeting, since some inputs were sought from the home department.

The Cabinet also approved the formation of the Gruha Lakshmi Multipurpose Cooperative Society.

Rs 6,939-crore Cauvery Stage 6 to add 500 MLD water to Bengaluru

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state cabinet on Thursday approved the Cauvery Stage 6 project at a cost of Rs 6,939 crore.

Under Cauvery Stage 6, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) aims to bring an additional 500 Million Litres per Day (MLD) of Cauvery water to the city.

The project will serve the residents of Madanayakanahalli, Chikkabanavara, Nelamangala, Hoskote, Devanahalli, Vijaypur and the surrounding areas. Sources said the BWSSB would supply Cauvery water to these areas in bulk, and the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) would be responsible for laying pipelines and providing house-to-house connections.

Water schemes

In the last five decades, the BWSSB has completed six Cauvery Water Supply Schemes (CWSS). The first scheme - launched in 1974 - brought in 150 MLD of the river water to the city. Stage 4 was executed in two phases.

The most recent one - Cauvery Stage 5 - was launched in October 2024 to supply 775 MLD. Under these schemes, Bengaluru receives 2,275 MLD of Cauvery water.

Innovation labs to be set up at 60 residential schools

Aim is to foster scientific curiosity and promote experiential learning at the grassroots

BENGALURU, DHNS

Young researchers Keerat Kaur, Reshma J V, Lakshmi G and S Yamini were felicitated at the National Science Day programme organised by the Department of Science and Technology at the Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium in Bengaluru on Thursday. DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

Minister for Science and Technology N S Boseraju said that the Department of Science and Technology would establish innovation labs in over 60 residential schools across the state.

Speaking at the National Science Day programme organised at the Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium in the city, he said, "We will establish Nehru Stream Labs and Innovation Labs across the state to foster scientific curiosity and promote experiential learning at the grassroots."

The department, in collaboration with the Kalyana Karnataka Region Development Board (KKRDB), is setting up Nehru stream labs in Karnataka Public Schools (KPS) across the Kalyana Karnataka region, he said.

The minister said that the department aims to promote science education and curiosity at the school level. "Science must become an integral part of improving everyday life. Driven by our vision of 'Science for All' and 'Easy Science,' we are promoting science education at the school level," he said.

"To move beyond rote textbook learning and encourage activity-based education, we are building Nehru stream labs in the Kalyana Karnataka region and innovation labs in backward class residential schools. This will significantly help in sparking an interest in innovation and future technologies among our rural students," Boseraju added.

School Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa urged the students to develop an interest in science early in life.

Higher Education Minister Dr M C Sudhakar advised the students to minimise mobile phone use and instead focus on reading and sports.

"Our government is providing numerous opportunities for innovation. I urge the students to use the opportunity and bring out innovations," Dr Sudhakar said.

Young researchers Keerat Kaur, Reshma J V, Lakshmi G and S Yamini were felicitated on the occasion.

Hindu organisations demand closure of Bagalkot mosque

BAGALKOT, DHNS: The Hindu Hitarakshana Samiti has warned of an intensified protest if the police fail to book those involved in pelting stones on Shivaji Jayanti procession from inside the Panka masjid within 15 days.

Hindu Jagarana Vedike (Uttar Pranth) convener Srikanth Hosakere, addressing the rally, said, "In the last four decades, several such incidents (of hurling stones and slippers on processions taken out by the Hindu outfits from inside mosque) have happened. Hence, the police should close Panka Masjid."

The police should book the members of the masjid committee and those who threw stones on the procession. Instead of taking action against the perpetrators, the police shut the entire town, he charged.

The city had witnessed communal clashes when stones and slippers were reportedly hurled at a Shivaji procession near a mosque at Qila Oni locality, last week.

Following the incident, the Bagalkot police had arrested two Hindu activists and booked them on charges of attempting to incite violence, obstructing police personnel from discharging their duties and damaging private property.

Government of Karnataka
Taluk General Hospital Alur, Hassan Dist - 573213 E-mail=tlhalur01@gmail.com
phone No. : 08170-218223
No:TGH/Alur/OS-tender/01/2025-26 Date:24/02/2026
: E-PROCUREMENT NOTIFICATION:
2026-27 Tender were invited through e-procurement to provide man power service of 9 number of Group D & 9 number of Non-clinical Group D under outsource basis to Taluk General Hospital, Alur, Hassan District, with 100 beds. Tender registration can be submitted from 24/02/2026. Deadline for receipt of tender registration is 04:30 PM on 10/03/2026. More details will be available at www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in Tender Amount Rs. 51,56,400/-
Sd/- Administrative Medical Officer
Taluk General Hospital, Alur, Hassan Dist-573213
ವಾಸಾಸಂ೧/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/1115/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

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BGRR/PvtSale/Q4/2025-26 NOTICE FOR PRIVATE SALE OF GOLD 26/02/2026

Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that Gold Ornaments pledged in the following Gold Loan accounts, with the under mentioned Branches of the Bank, which are overdue for redemption and which have not been regularized so far in spite of repeated notices, will be put for Private sale, in the respective Branches on any date after 10-03-2026 as shown below:

Br. Ainapur: Karchi Building, Opposite Pattan Panchayath, Ainapur, Taluk Athani, Belgaum, Karnataka- 591 303, Ph. No. 08339-254084 :- 14976400017377,14976400017385,14976400017393,14976400022914,14976400023029,14976400023037,14976400023045,14976400026774.
Br. Athani: Near Head Post Office, Near Ganesh Mandir, A / P Athani, Belgaum, Karnataka- 591 304, Ph. No. 08289-252725 :- 15076400078195, 15076400083864,15076400081892. **Br. Bagalkot: Prema Arcade, Engineering college circle, Vidyagiri PO, Bagakot- 587 102 Ph: 08354 233399 :-** 21966400067556,21966400068406,21966400069412,21966400071145,21966400071871,21966400067424,21966400069214,21966400071111,21966400066947, 21966400067671,21966400067986,21966400062920,21966400072705,21966400072697. **Br. Belgaum/Tilakwadi: Near 3rd Railway Gate, Khanapur Road, Tilakwadi, Belgaum- 590 006 Ph: 0831-2495439 :-** 15306900000831,15306900003140,15306400028191,15306900000898,15306400016527, 15306900002258,15306100047608,15306400027565,15306400022251,15306900001722,15306400030270,15306400030379,15306400030486,15306400022665, 15306400026476,15306900000682,15306100047657,15306900001714,15306400027177,15306400026955,15306900001698,15306400028613,15306900001466, 15306900001532,15306900001649,15306900002571,15306900002381,15306400028084,15306400028910,15306900001508,15306400030080,15306900003108.
Br. Belgaum/City: Ground Floor, Vijaylaxmi Arcade, Opp. Khade Bazar Police station, Narvekar Galli, Belgaum- 590002, Ph. No. 0831-2423460 :- 15096400043429,15096400029667,15096400039419,15095600001328,15096400046232,15096400040656,15096400042124,15096400046471,15096400044443, 15096400043262,15096400034436,15096400043387,15096400042538,15096400042835,15096400046299,15096400039146,15096100248872,15096400043270, 15096400044203,15096400044070,15096400046521,15096400045523,15096400045432,15096400046091,15096400040342,15096400041316,15096400041324, 15096400046448,15096400045267,15096400045234,15096400045424,15096400045770.
Br. Bellary: Modi Chambers, 2nd Cross, Gandhi Nagar, Bellary, Karnataka-583 103, Ph. No. 08392-258667 :- 15896100166374,15896400170977,15896400213850,15896400210864,15896400189100,15896400176784,15896400194837,15896400194845,15896400213504, 15896400190041,15896100158512,15896400185611,15896400147124,15896400183145,15896400215798,15896400210435,15896400174243,15896400188367, 15896400220194,15896400221754,15896400214205,15896400227355,15896400227371.
Br. Chitradurga: Opp.Vasavi Mahal, Basaveshwara Talkies Road, Chitradurga- 577 501, Ph. No. 08194-220931 :- 15946400100654, 15946400100654,15946400101413,15946400074164,15946400056450,15946400105760,15946400108632,15946400087505,15946900005031,15946900003473, 15946400105810,15946400100696,15946900003788,15946900005072,15946900005742,15946400105463,15946900008407,15946900004802,15946400107840, 15946400086267,15946900003945,15946900005148,15946900005379,15946900004885,15946400074693,15946400074701,15946900003200,15946900005197, 15946900005312,15946400105877,15946900003556,15946400105778,15946900004893,15946400105844,15946900005155,15946900005585,15946900006732, 15946900009223,15946900012011,15946900004737,15946900012680, 15946400105349,15946100085700,15946900006039,15946900006617,15946900006138
Br: Davanagere: Raghavendra Plaza, No.200/1A & 200/1B, 3rd Main, 7th Cross, 28th Ward, P J Extension, Davangere-577 002, Ph. 08192-222511 :- 22976400054644,22976400052697,22976400057043,22976400042466,22976400044090,22976400057357,22976400061193,22976400053968,22976400063207, 22976400065673,22976400062084,22976400061342,22976400061359,22976400063421,22976100006654,22976100007496.
Br. Dharwad: Inamdhar Desai Arcade, Opp Spandhana Hospital, Vivekananda Circle,Saptapur, Dharwad- 580 001, Ph. No. 0836-2445280 :- 16386400121518,16386400123241,16386400124793,16386400120270,16386400122391,16386400122433,16386400127622,16386400126160,16386300006298, 16386300009151,16386300011637,16386300011751,16386300011819,16386300011827,16386300012049,16386300012056,16386300012197,16386300012247, 16386300012304,16386300012411,16386300014896,16386300014904,16386300014946,16386300014987,16386300015067,16386300015190,16386300015265, 16386300015505,16386300015653,16386300015711,16386300015745,16386300015778,16386300015851,16386300016172,16386300016230,16386300016255, 16386300019374,16386300019416,16386300020299,16386300020471,16386300020489,16386300020505,16386300020554,16386300020562,16386300020703, 16386300020711,16386300020729,16386300020778,16386300020786,16386300020794,16386300020810,16386300020836,16386300020844,16386300020851, 16386300020976,16386300021016,16386300021024,16386300021040,16386300021057,16386300021073,16386300021099,16386300021107,16386300021149, 16386300021164,16386300021321,16386300021339,16386300021602,16386300021644,16386300021719,16386300021750,16386300021776,16386300021966, 16386300021982,16386300022006,16386300022014,16386300022030,16386300022048,16386300022071,16386300023855,16386300025116,16386300025124, 16386400118852,16386400118357,16386400118324,16386400127283,16386400116955,16386400123050,16386400127168,16386400123043,16386400127226, 16386100027825,16386100029102,16386400129370,16386400124181,16386400124033,16386400131228,16386400129826,16386400123043,16386100029177, 16386400131236. **Br. Gulbarga: Plot No.7, 1st Floor, Main Road, Super Market, Gulbarga, Karnataka- 585 101 Ph. No. 08472-230107 :-** 16046400064932,16046400065590,16046400065848,16046400065418,16046400065053,16046400065087,16046100066922,16046400069600,16046400064833, 16046400065392,16046400065541,16046400039116,16046400065871,16046400065665,16046400061946,16046400065897,16046400064635,16046400064346, 16046400065749,16046400064718,16046400065814. **Br.Gangawati: Building No 2-12-81,82,83, Malleswara Complex, Koppal road, Gangawati-583 227 Ph:08533271861:-** 16856100065066,16856400151780,16856400159056,16856400125388,16856400134505,16856400130776,16856400154230,16856400152861, 16856100056990,16856100059549. **Br. Ganeshpur: Plot No. 19, BUDA Scheme No 51, Near Military Hospital,Ganeshpur Main Road, Belgaum, Karnataka- 590 009, Ph: 0831-2446719 :-** 14955600001332,14956100111746,14956400014186,14956100108130,14956100108064, 14956400016447,14956400020852,14956100111258. **Br. Hubli: Swastik Central, Niligin Road, New Cotton Market, Hubballi, Dharwad, Karnataka- 580 029, Ph. No. 0836-2369449 :-** 13386100419918,13386400105233,13386400134373,13386400134233,13386400131064, 13386900004563,13386900004688,13386400115802,13386400133466,13386400152367,13386900005768,13386400135727,13386400140875,13386400136295, 13386400136246,13386400134852,13386400143531,13386400136535,13386400143648,13386400114789,13386400141436,13386400142913,13386400147144, 13386400147292,13386900004472,13386400134423,13386400134431,13386400134449,13386400134456,13386400143580,13386400142848,13386900004498, 13386400128672,13386400135925,13386400142830,13386400144620,13386400145353,13386400142004,13386900004316,13386400148167,13386400155444, 13386400150155,13386900005719,13386400141527,13386400142475,13386400151377. **Br. Chikodi: House No.3450, Sadguru Premnivas, Indiranagar, Chikodi, Belgaum- 591201 :-** 19396400008190,19396400017084,19396900000523,19396900000242,19396100005975,19396400017886.
Br. Hubli / Akshaya Park : Ridhi Sidhi/Sriya Developers, Opposite to Giants School, R.N.S Road, Akshaya Park, Hubli, Dharwad, Dist.-580030:- 26066400002276,26066400001641,26066400001658,26066900000119,26066400002318,26066400002466,26066900000531.
Br. Hiriyur: Prashantha Nilaya, Main Road, Hiriyur, Chitradurga Dist, Karnataka- 577 598, Ph. No. 08193271024 :- 19886400095072,19886400098480,19886100022723,19886400093960,19886900000390,19886400095569,19886400097938,19886400091832,19886100022913, 19886400084183,19886400088317,19886900001059,19886900000531,19886400077575,19886400077658,19886400094208,19886400094596,19886400103462, 19886400092137,19886100023952,19886400090438,19886400091881,19886400099322,19886400075975,19886400098860,19886400098878,19886400088846, 19886400092384,19886400092335,19886400097466,19886400098803,19886400092442.
Br. Hosapete: Elevated Ground Floor, D No. 486, PID No.4-2-5-79C, Venkateshwara Automobiles Road, 2nd Division, 4th Ward, Patel Nagar, Hosapete, Vijayanagara District, Karnataka- 583 201 :- 23726900000616,23726400007244,23726900000723. **Br. Jamkhandi: Opp to Govts Girls High School,Near--Bus Stand, Jamkhandi, Bagalkote-587301:-** 23846400008727,23846400009444,23846400003439,23846400008636,23846400008834.
Br. Haveri: C Plot No.30A, Vidya Nagar, P B Road, Haveri Dist, Karnataka- 581 110 Ph. No. 08375232784 :- 20436400087435,20436100006099, 20436400089969,20436100008426,20436400087484,20436100008400,20436400092724,20436400094407,20436400094225,20436400096790.
Br. Koppal: Kodandappa Complex, Near Kiran Paints, Jawahar Road, Koppal-583 231, Ph. No. 0853-9220606 :- 21176400113216,21176400113679, 21176400119239,21176100008633,21176400114255,21176400115054,21176400115062,21176400115435,21175600000512,21176400118249,21176400113513, 21176400115401,21176400113562,21176400086297,21176400114396,21176400105782,21176400118876,21176400118884,21176400102136,21176400113927, 21176400114891,21176400091735,21176100014896,21176400102664,21176400118660,21176400114453,21176400118488,21176400118447.
Br. Nipani: Dhole Prime, Ashok Nagar, Nipani, Belagavi, Karnataka- 591237:- 15086100041062,15086100042383,15086100042193,15086100042482, 15086900001142,15086900001159,15086900001167,15086900001175,15086900001183,15086900001191,15086900001209,15086900001217,15086400039782, 15086400042323,15086400052595,15085600002251,15086400053114,15086400053148,15086900001357,15086100042375,15086400049955,15086400053759, 15086900001092,15086400051092,15086900000714,15086400051076,15086400053296,15086400052785,15086900000730.
Br. Khanapur: Room No. A4, Mangirish Building, Opp. Municipal Bus Stand, Khanapur, Belgaum Dist. Karnataka- 591 302 :- 19606400029719, 19606100008344. **Br. Kagwad: Athani Road, Kagwad PO, Taluk-Athani, Belgaum, Karnataka- 591 223 Ph. No. 08339264628 :-** 14806400026211,14806400026229,14806400025940,14806100019276,14806100019821,14806400026047,14806400026013,14806400026690,14806400029249.
Br. Ranibennur: Gungadatti Building, Opp. KEB Office, PB Road, Ranibennur, Haveri, Karnataka- 581 115 :- 21116400042726,21116100003879,21116400031398,21116400031422,21116400038708,21116400044862.
Br. Raichur: Ashwini Complex, Opp. Public Gardens, Ambedkar Circle, Station Road, Raichur, Karnataka- 584 101, Ph. No. 08532-225091:- 15736400157600,15736400139905,15736400150191,15736400152213,15736400147700,15736400161479,15736400169571,15736900002058,15736400169514, 15736400169522. **Br. Sindhanur: PID No. 31-4-255, Ward No. 15, Near APMC, Kushtagi Road, Sindhanur, Raichur Dist. Karnataka- 584 128 :-** 26195600000036,26196400000291,26196400000382,26195600000010,26195600000028.
Br. Ugarkhurd: Ghodagire Building, Opposite Post Office, Ugar Khurd, Athani Taluk, Belgaum- 591316, Ph: 8339 272325 :- 14996400039106, 14996400038884,14996400029149,14996400038819,14996400039122,14996400040740,14996400038918,14996400040534,14995600001205,14996400041482, 14996400039072,14996400042597,14996900000707. **Br. Vijayapura: CTS No: 1439,Upuli Burz Road, Opp.Milan Medicals,Near M G Road, Vijayapura - 586 101 :-** 23266400023982,23266400006409,23266400006821,23266400004974,23266400021648,23266900001330,23266400024188, 23266400024311,23266400022224,23266400022232,23266400016069,23266900001470,23266900001397,23266400023230,23266400026340,23266400027744.

Bangalore 26-02-2026 Vice President & Zonal Head

Memory chip crunch...

Memory chip, from Page 1

As memory suppliers redirect manufacturing capacity to HBM to meet AI data centre demand, the resulting industry-wide memory shortage and price increases are likely to define the overall scale of the handset industry through the fiscal year, he said.

Smartphones, PCs (volume-driven markets with thin margins), consumer electronics and IoT devices, automotive electronics (increasing memory content per vehicle) and some industrial and telecom equipment will be the most-affected segments, Ashok Chandak, president of the India Electronics and Semiconductor Association (IESA) told *DH*.

"Large hyperscale AI companies are relatively insulated due to long-term supply contracts. The pressure is more visible in mass-market electronics, which will see cost increases and potential specification adjustments," he said.

IESA's industry insights suggest that memory chip prices will go up by about 30–50% in many segments over the last year, with higher spikes in some cases.

Smartphones/PCs will see 5–10% increase and consumer electronics will witness up to 10–15% rise depending on memory content.

"The impact varies by product category and contract cycles, but the broader trend is that memory is no longer a low-cost commodity input," he said.

New global memory capacity takes two to three years to come online, and given the current AI infrastructure investments, tightness may continue through 2026 and into 2027, with gradual normalisation thereafter, Chandak added.

Last month, during Samsung Electronics' earnings conference, Jason Shin, EVP of System LSI said rising memory chip prices have been weighing on mobile set makers driving up BOM (bill of materials) costs. IDC expects 2026 DRAM and NAND supply growth to be below historical norms at 16% year-on-year and 17% year-on-year, respectively.

"Memory modules, which used to cost less than $20 a year ago, could exceed $100 by year-end for top-tier models. The result is a structural shift. This is a reversal of everything we've come to expect from this industry. When something that used to get cheaper every year suddenly becomes a lot more expensive, the economics of building a smartphone fundamentally change," Carl Pei, CEO, co-founder, Nothing Inc, said.

Asked when RAM and storage chipset prices could become stable, Nipun Marya, CEO, iQOO, told *DH* during the iQOO 15R launch on February 24 that it is anybody's guess. "Nobody has a very clear idea. But, yes, the forecasts are that prices are still going to rise," he said.

Dairy farmers' subsidy may go up by Rs 2 per litre, budget announcement likely

BENGALURU, DHNS:

The subsidy given to dairy farmers may increase from Rs 5 to Rs 7 per litre. The announcement is expected to be made in the state budget 2026-27.

Though Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had announced the rise in subsidy during the Belagavi Assembly session two months ago, it was not implemented on ground.

"We have already submitted the proposal for a rise in subsidy by Rs 2 during the pre-budget meeting. We have received a positive response as well," said B Shivaswamy, Managing Director, Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF).

Sources in KMF opined that the production may improve further with the rise in subsidy.

There are 16 milk unions in the state, with nine lakh farmers availing of the subsidy. At present, close to Rs 1,900 crore is being spent on subsidy annually, which will go up by Rs 730 crore if the subsidy is increased by Rs 2 per litre.

Along with the subsidy, farmers are now paid close to Rs 38 per litre of milk.

India, Israel elevate ties...

Israel, from Page 1

"Our relationship has stood the test of time. Today, we took the historic decision to elevate our time-tested partnership to 'Special Strategic Partnership. This decision reflects the aspirations of the people of both countries," he said.

The relationship was upgraded to a strategic partnership in 2017.

"Last year, we signed a bilateral investment agreement to promote mutual investment. We will also soon finalise a mutually beneficial Free Trade Agreement (FTA)," Modi said.

"India and Israel are absolutely clear that terrorism has no place in the world. Terrorism, in any form, in any manifestation, cannot be tolerated," Modi, who landed in Israel on Wednesday on a two-day visit, said.

"We have stood shoulder to shoulder against terrorism and its supporters, and will continue to do so."

The prime minister also made a mention of the resolved by the two sides to forge a partnership in the area of critical and emerging technologies.

"This will give new impetus to cooperation in areas such as AI, quantum, and critical minerals," he said.

"I am pleased that an agreement has been reached for the use of UPI (United Payment Interface) in Israel. We are also committed to improving people's lives by sharing our experiences in the field of digital health," he said.

In his remarks, Netanyahu said the future belongs to those who innovate and Israel and India are determined on innovation. "We are proud ancient civilisations, very proud of our past, but also absolutely determined to seize our future and we can do it better together," he said.

Cabinet nod to fill 56k posts in 30 days as per old quota formula

Cabinet, from Page 1

Till then, the government will recruit 94 out of 100 jobs (4 for Scheduled Castes and 2 for Scheduled Tribes). When asked about what the internal reservation formula would be for SCs for their 15% quota, the minister noted that it would be spelt out in the notification.

Two cases in court

Currently, there are two cases in the high court related to the reservation matrix in Karnataka.

In one case, recruitment based on the 2022 law (providing 17% reservation to SCs and 7% reservation to STs) — has been stayed.

In the other case, related to internal reservation for SCs based on the 6:6:5 formula, the high court has asked the government to proceed with the recruitment process but not issue final job orders.

Patil explained that of the 56,432 jobs, the Finance Department has already given permission for 24,300 jobs, while a new notification has to be issued for the remaining 32,132 jobs under Article 371(J) — reservation to candidates from the Kalyana Karnataka region.

When asked about the quantum of financial resources required for these recruitments, the minister said: "We will take care of that burden. The process of recruitment will start. There's a very serious direction by the chief minister to all departments, including FD."

SC bans chapter on corruption...

Textbook, From Page 1

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Union government, tendered an unconditional apology on behalf of the NCERT. He said the person responsible for it would no longer be associated with it. He also said that a take-down order would be issued. He said the books were being withdrawn and the entire chapter would be revisited. Mehta admitted that children cannot be taught that justice is denied.

Senior advocates Kapil Sibal and A M Singhvi raised questions about corruptions among politicians and bureaucrats.

The bench, however, said, instead of having an introspection of what had been written in the "most reckless, motivated and contemptuous manner", the director responded in writing defending the contents of the book.

"Prima facie, it seems to us that there is a calculated move to undermine and demean the dignity of judiciary. If allowed to go unchecked, it will erode the sanctity of judicial office in the estimation of public," the bench said.

The court said that while the publication dedicates an entire chapter to the role of the judiciary and washes of with one stroke the illustrious history of SC, HCs, it has omitted the substantial contributions made by these institutions.

The court felt the text failed to acknowledge the imperative role of judiciary which it undertakes in upholding constitutional morality and basic structure doctrine.

"It seems to us that the narrative contained in the book chooses not to delve into the transformative initiative and measures of this court in overhauling the legal aid mechanism and streamlining access to justice. The silence is particularly egregious given the sheer volume of high-ranking officials censured by this court for siphoning of public funds, etc," the bench said.

"We don't propose to initiate proceedings to stifle any legitimate critic or take to task any individual or organisation exercising the right to scrutinise institutions like the judiciary. We are of firm conviction that dissent and rigorous discourse are vital parts of a living democracy," the bench said.

The court said that students in their formative years are only beginning to navigate the nuances of public life. "It is fundamentally improper to expose them to a biased narrative that may engender permanent misconception at this tender age," the bench said.

In a post on X, activist-lawyer Prashant Bhushan wrote, "Unfortunate that the SC & some senior lawyers took umbrage at the new chapter in the NCERT textbook about the judiciary & that corruption is one of the challenges it faces. Considerable corruption in the judiciary is seen and perceived acutely by litigants."

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
ENGINEERING WING

Office of the Chief Engineer, Arogya Soudha, 3rd Floor, Leprosy Hospital Premises, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560 023 Telephone No.080-29557023 E-mail:**cekhsdrp@gmail.com & cekhsdrp-hfws@karnataka.gov.in**

No:HFWD/EW/CE/TA-1/AE-2/TND/2025-26/4181 Date:25.02.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Chief Engineer, H&FWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru invites tender from eligible Contractors registered in KPWD in two Cover tender document system through Karnataka Public Procurement portal for the following works.

Sl. No.	Description of works	Approximate Amount put to tendert (Excluding GST) (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD (Rs.in Lakhs)	Stipulated period for Completion (including monsoon)
1	Upgradation of 350 KLD STP to 500 KLD STP at District Wenlock Hospital Mangaluru in Dakshina Kannada District	167.00	2.50	06 Months
2	Construction of **Ayushman Arogya Mandiras** at (1) Aivaranadu (2) Devachala (3) Doddatota (4) Hariharapalladadka (5) Jalsooru (6) Kalamakaru (7) Mupperiya (8) Nalkuru (9) Thodikana Sullia Taluk (10) Bettampadi (11) Kemmara (12) Ithoor (13) Narimogaru Puttur Taluk at Dakshina Kannada District **(Call-7).**	715.00	11.00	05 Months

Calendar of Events: For Sl.No.(1)

(1) Last date for receipt of tenders **: 26.03.2026 up to 16.00 hrs. (2)** Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids): **27.03.2026 at 16.01 hrs.**

Calendar of Events: For Sl.No.(2) (Short-term tender): (1) Last date for receipt of tenders: **11.03.2026 up to 16.00 hrs. (2)** Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids): **12.03.2026 at 16.01 hrs.**

The tender details can be downloaded from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Platform **(www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** Tenders shall be submitted electronically at **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Interested eligible contractors shall register on the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Platform to participate in this tender.

NOTE: 1. All the rights are reserved by the undersigned for postponement or cancellation of entire tender process, rejection of bids /individual bid etc., without assigning any reason. 2. Henceforth, any changes in the schedule/contents will not be published through Newspapers and further changes will be updated only on Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Platform.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, H&FWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ರಾಯಚೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ

E-mail:itstaff_ulb_raichura@yahoo.com Website:-www.raichurcity.gov.in
Phone No:08532-226768 Fax No:08532-226316

ಸಂ.ರಾಮಪ/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ/ಕಾ/ಅ/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:25–02–2026.

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ 2.0 ಪದ್ಧತಿ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ).

ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ತಿಳಿಯಪಡಿಸುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ, ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ತೋರಿಸಿದ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂಬರ ಸರಬರಾಜು / ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ 2.0 ಪದ್ಧತಿ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಚಿಸುವ ಅರ್ಹ ಸರಬರಾಜು / ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು WWW.KPPP.Karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು, ಹಾಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ WWW.raichurcity. mrc.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ	ಅನುದಾನದ ವಿವರ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ	ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂಬರ
1	ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ	Annual Maintenance of Borewell in Ward No 01 to 35 in Raichur City **Estimate Cost Rs.1,00,00,000/-**	DMA/2025-26/ WS/ WORK_ INDENT55731
2	ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ	Cleaning of GLSR, Clarifier, OHT and Sump in Various Wards from Ward No 01 to 35 in Raichur City. **Estimate Cost Rs.79,90,000/-**	DMA/2025-26/ WS/ WORK_ INDENT55732
3	ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ	Maintenance to Roads in Raichur City Corporation Phase - 2. **Estimate Cost Rs.1,00,00,000/-**	DMA/2025-26/ RD/WORK_ INDENT55738
4	ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ	Installation of Shade Net in Traffic Signals at Basaveshwar Circle and Gunj Circle in Raichur City. **Estimate Cost Rs. 23,00,000/-**	DMA/2025-26/ OW/ WORK_ INDENT55748
5	ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ	Supply and installation of Desktop and Printer to Raichur Lokayukta Office, Raichur District. **Estimate Cost Rs.5,10,000/-**	DMA/2025-26/ IND6017
6	ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ	Repair and Renovation of Public Toilets and Community Toilets Within The Limits of Raichur City Corporation (PHASE-1) **Estimate Cost Rs.2,40,00,000/-**	DMA/2025-26/ BD/ WORK_ INDENT55726
7	ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ	Providing and Fixing Membrane for Water Proofing for Corporation (OLD DC) Office Building In Raichur City. **Estimate Cost Rs. 20,50,000/-**	DMA/2025-26/ IND55744
8	ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ	Providing and Laying of HDPE Pipeline from Mantharalayam Main Road to Zaheerabad Road Via Mavinkere Bund In Raichur City. **Estimate Cost Rs. 4,99,000/-**	DMA/2025-26/ WS/ WORK_ INDENT55402
9		Shifting of High masts near Samudhaya Bhavana, Hosuru Jambe Tree, Near Govt. School & Fixing of lights Near Jandha Katte High Mast in Ward no 06, Raichur City Corporation. **Estimate Cost Rs. 4,99,000/-**	DMA/2025-26/ EL/ WORK_ INDENT55470

DIP/RCR/729/KSMCA/732/2025-26

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ರಾಯಚೂರು.

THE FEDERAL BANK LIMITED
Regd. Office: Aluva, Kerala.

ZONAL OFFICE: 2nd Floor, Halcyon Complex, No.9, St Marks Road, Bangalore-560 001.
e-mail: bgrr-cpc@federalbank.co.in Phone: 080-22074610/604/613/624/625

BGRR/PvtSale/Q4/2025-26 **NOTICE FOR PRIVATE SALE OF GOLD** 26/02/2026

Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that Gold Ornaments pledged in the following Gold Loan accounts, with the under mentioned Branches of the Bank, which are overdue for redemption and which have not been regularized so far in spite of repeated notices, will be put for Private sale, in the respective Branches on any date after 10-03-2026 as shown below:

Br. Belthangadi: Suvarna Arcade, Belthangadi, Dakshina Kannada Dist., Karnataka- 574 214, Ph. No. 08256-232404 :- 19016400113135,19016400106386,19016900000485,19016400099813,19016400094533,19016100011159,19016400105172,19016400112525,19016900001103, 19016900000931,19016900001814,19016400113085. **Br. Kadur: Dr Vishwanath Building, Maravanji Circle, BH Road, Kadur, Chikmagalur Dist, Karnataka- 577 548 Ph. No. 08267-221244 :-** 18935600000613,18935600000605,18936400063942,18936400054354,18936400068081,18936400075482. **Br. Bhatkal: Misbah Chambers, Ranginkatta, NH 17, Bhatkal, Uttar Kannada Dist., Karnataka- 581 320 :-** 19866400103621,19866900000608, 19866400085380,19866400103597,19866400110311,19866400119767,19866900001507,19866900001515,19866900000285. **Br. Chikmagalur: P B No 157, BM Buildings, Thogarihenkal Circle, K M Road, Chikmagaluru- 577 101, Ph. No. 08262-233024 :-** 13566400259441,13566900003513,13566400252610,13566100436943,13566400238833,13566100436489,13566400262015,13566900003539,13565600003062, 13566100440259,13566100441034,13566400246927,13566400231002,13565600002965,13566900003547,13566400259581,13566400268798,13566400255209. 13566400266685,13566400267717,13566400267733,13566400268632. **Br. Hebri: Spatika Plaza, Kuchoor Road, Hebri, Karkala Taluk, Udupi Dist., Karnataka- 576 112, Ph. No. 08253-250045 :-**18966400034254,18966400034262,18966400032407,18966400035939,18966900000987,18966900000912, 18966900000748,18966900000755,18966400035756,18966400035202,18966900000458,18966400034239,18966400037695,18966900000920,18966400034049, 18966400034064,18966400034106,18966400035103,18966400037919,18966900000623. **Br. Karwar: 451/G-1, Suprabha, Green Street, Karwar, Uttar Kannad Dist.,- 581 301 Ph: 8382-222842 :-** 16286400047558,16286400047566. **Br. Kadaba: Ground Floor, Anugraha Complex, Main Road, Kadaba, Dakshina Kannada-574221:-** 20126400052964,20126900000737,20125600000526, 20125600000559,20126400040175,20126400047857,20126400048087,20126400052998,20126400048822,20126400048954,20126900000612,20126400045992, 20126400049432,20126900000893,20126400048392,20126400048459,20126400048053,20126400049143,20126400055868,20126400051008,20125500014569, 20126400052550,20126400052568,20126400054358,20126400054523,20126400055272,20126400055280. **Br. Kinnigoli: C4 and C5, Pintos Golden Castle, Talipady Road, Next to BSNL office, Kinnigoli, Dakshin Kannada, Karnataka- 574 150 Ph: 0824-2295690 :-** 20076400031353. **Br. Koyyur: Survey No:184/6, First Floor, Koyyur Milk Production Co-operative Society Building, Koyyur, Belthangady Taluk, Dakshina Kannada District, Karnataka- 574 214 :-** 23146400012328. **Br. Karkala: Opp Bundimatt Bus Stand, Karkala, Udupi District, Karnataka- 574 104 :-** 19636400042040,19636400041380,19635600000675, 19636900000704,19635600000667,19636900001405,19636900000720,19636100018217,19636400041596,19636400042313,19636400042396. **Br. Moodabidri: Next to Hotel Pancharatna Buidling, Moodabidri, Dakshin Kannad, Karnataka- 574227:-** 19626400085511,19626400085529, 19626400083201,19626400084837,19626400087558. **Br. Mangalore: P B No. 775, Near PVS Circle, Manasa Towers, M G Road, Kodialbail, Mangalore, Dakshin Kannada- 575 003, Ph. No. 08242-497883 :-** 11755600005009,11756100095797,11756900042940,11756900043146, 11756400050336,11756400049031,11755600004812,11755600005033,11756900042817,11756900042924,11756900043237,11756900043351,11756900043369, 11756900044003,11756900043120,11756400050427,11756400050542,11755600004770,11756900042866,11756900042833,11756900043070,11755600004986, 11755600004713,11756400050344,11756400050393,11755600004796,11755600004762,11755600004978,11755600004994. **Br. Mangalore/Kankanady: The Vintage, Kankanady, Dakshina Kannada, Mangalore- 575 002, Ph: 08242430152:-** 17705600001304,17706900003818, 17705600001353,17706400042134,17706400042233,17706900001846,17706400043926,17706400041334,17706400042803,17706900003297. **Br. Nellyadi: Elite Plaza, Nh 48, Near St. George P U College, Nellyadi, Dakshina Kannada- 574 229, Ph: 08251-256100 :-** 16446100016473,16446400093610, 16446400093628,16446400110885,16446400110117,16446400110257,16446400111172,16446400111040,16446400111073,16446400107956,16446400110505. **Br. Puttur: Meenar Complex, Main Road, Puttur, Dakshin Kannada- 574 201, Ph:08251-233544:-** 18946400108480,18945600000547,18946900000492. **Br. Sullya: Ganesh Complex, Main Road, Sullya, Dakshina Kannada District- 574 239 :-** 19006400061111,19006400059313,19006400060311, 19006400061129,19006100030762,19006400058992,19006400058455,119006400062630,19005500017957,19006400059602,19006400062523,19006400062770. **Br. Shimoga: Haranahalli Manjappa Complex, Park Extension Road, Durgigudi, Shimoga- 577 201, Ph. No. 08182-271998 :-** 15906400105624, 15906400092731,15906400103256,15906400108859,15906400108677,15906400092087,15906900001729,15906900001877,15906400103280,15906400102795, 15906400103124,15906900001380,15906400100757,15906400103462,15906900001943,15906900001836,15906400110905,15906400110913,15906900001455, 15906900000853,15906400089505,15906900001406,15906400093911,15906400102100,15906400095817,15906900001786,15906400104668,15906400092467, 15906400108164,15906900001737,15906400106366,15906400102118,15906400106143,15906400105236,15906400104924,15906400108537,15906400105822, 15906400105830,15906400110848,15906400112562,15906900005845,15906900005852,15906900003766. **Br. Thokottu: R E B Complex, Opp.Thokottu Bus stand, NH17, Permannur Po, Thokkottu Jn, Dakshin Kannada– 575 017, Ph. No.08242462013 :-** 20136400082911,20136900000686,20136400083125,20135600000566,20135600000392,20136400085385,20135600000467,20135600000699,20136900000355, 20136900000363,20136900000389,20135600000681,20135600000640. **Br. Udupi: Mahalasa Towers, Court Road, Udupi, Karnataka- 576 101, Ph. No. 08202521562 :-** 15746900002073,15746900002081,15746900002446,15746900002560,15746400076387,15746900002115, 15746400070984,15746400073061,15746400070992,15746900002578,15746900002347,15746900001026,15746900001208,15746900001307,15746900001620. **Br. Arsikere : Near LIC Office, B H Road, Arsikere, Hassan, Karnataka-573103 Ph:08174230125 :-** 20306400061625,20306400061427,20306400061146, 20306900001378,20306400061591,20306400061633,20306400062557,20306400062680,20306400063209,20306900002731,20305500005706,20306400062078. **Br. Gonikopal: Sudharma Building, Near Masjid, Ponnampet Road Jn, Main Road, Gonikoppal, Kodagu - 571 213 :-** 19616400155075,19616400156081, 19616400155075,19616400156081,19616400154771,19616400154698,19616400163236,19616400128809,19616100050584,19616400155497,19616400158129, 19616400158137,19616400158145,19616400155752,19616900001506,19616400144574,19616400148427,19616400153518,19616400153526,19616400155877, 19616400149540,19616400155869,19616100049982,19616400155307,19616400159614,19616400166023,19616400168466. **Br. Handpost: Sy. No. 34/1A, Yerahalli Taluk, HD Kote, Mysore, Karnataka- 571 114 Ph. No. 08228-255225 :-** 21726900003737, 21726900005955,21726900010542,21726400227729,21726900009015,21726900004842,21726900004123,21726900003588,21726900004693,21726400228065, 21726400228743,21726900005930,21726400228818,21726400198169,21726900006334,21726900004735,21726900014411,21726100069397,21726900003273, 21726900014049,21726900006250,21726400187931,21726900007803,21726400204876,21726400208026,21726400227281,21726900005294,21726900007274, 21726400227885,21726900003679,21726900004818,21726900008868,21726900006573,21726900007571,21726900004800,21726400228081,21726400230541, 21726400223314,21726400190505,21726400227836,21726900008017,21726900007951,21726400222043,21726400217340,21726900007977,21726400223819, 21726400228750,21726900007142,21726400228479,21726900004792,21726400166125,21726400221805,21726900003315,21726900007456,21726400209271, 21726400161563,21726900006409,21726400228586,21726400228040,21726900006391,21726400227257,21726400227489,21726400227828,21726900008181, 21726400226259,21726900002812,21726900004248,21726900002028,21726900002648,21726400221383,21726400228651,21726400228412,21726400228552. **Br. Hassan: #23-5-575-21, Ground Floor, Oriental Plaza, Near Suvarna Hotel, B M Road, Shariff Colony, Hassan, Karnataka- 573 201:-** 13546400247513,13546400336167,13546101049846,13546101049853,13546400328149,13545600012321,13545600012305,13546400316805,13546400241789, 13546400244916,13546400338221,13546101045182,13546101055629,13546400286826,13546400355985,13546400362437,13546101055520,13546101056122, 13546400353147,13546400355274,13546400355340,13546400355639,13546400355688,13546400355779,13546400355795,13546400355894,13546400356033, 13546400357395,13546400357833,13546400358906,13546400359334,13546400360191,13546400362239,13546400362346,13546400363435. **Br. Mysore: The Variety Mansion, Bangalore Nilgiri Road, Lashkar Mohalia, Lashkar Mohalla, Mysore, Karnataka- 570 001. Ph. No. 08212520055 :-** 12816400053083,12816400068024,12816400068040,12816800027968,12816400068180,12816100305395,12816100305585, 12816400068826,12816400068834,12816100306047,12816400068032,12816400068404. **Br. Hunsur: BM Road, Opp. Vijaya Bank, Hunsur, Mysore, Karnataka- 571 105 Ph: 08222252968 :-** 19896900001348,19896100242841,19896400059911,19896400074597,19896400070041,19896100243146 19896900002031,19896100245323,19896400075842,19896900000431,19896900000449,19896400072302,19896900004649,19896400082517,19896900000480, 19896400079562,19896400082616,19896900001751,19896900002122,19896400077467,19896400077558,19896900002502,19896400079323. **Br. Kushalnagar: HRS Mansion, BM Road, Kushal Nagar, Kodagu District, Karnataka- 571 234, Ph. No. 08276 274084 :-** 19316400106372,19316400106141,19316400092838,19316400107206,19316400114970,19316400116405,19316400116397,19316400116413. **Br. Mysore/Jayalakshmipuram: No.D3, Leo Madhurya, Adi Pampa Road, Vanivilas Mohalla Post, Mysore, Karnataka-570 002:-** 16896400075472,16896400075480,16896400075498,16896800040019,16896400077403,16896400074806,16896400071711,16896400071737,16896400071745, 16896800045380,16896800046032. **Br. Mysore/ Hebbal: #416, Dr.Sridhar Murthy Road, Hebbal, Mysore, Karnataka-570016:-** 24515600000136,24515600000144,24515600000177,24515600000235,24515600000086,24515600000201,24515600000193,24515600000888,24516900000271, 24515600001068,24515600000920,24515600000938,24516900000214,24515600000037,24515600000219,24515600000284,24515600000631,24516400005739, 24515600000771,24515600000904,24515600000912,24515600000748,24515600000763,24515600000821,24515600000326,24515600000334,24515600000623, 24515600000409,24515600000441,24515600000458,24516100000303,24516400005572,24515600000102,24515600001100,24515600001118,24515600001126, 24516300024160,24516300024178,24516300024186,24516300025266,24516300025696,24516300025712,24516300026561,24516300026629,24516300023121, 24516300023196,24516300023709,24516300023964,24516300025332. **Br.Channarayapatna: Ground Floor, Madhu Complex, Mysore Road, Channarayapatna, Hassan, Karnataka- 573 116, Ph No. 08176-252438 :-** 19876400165066,19876400160026,19876400158020,19876400158855. **Br. Nanjangud: PID #34-4-111, Bazaar Street, Ward No. 5, Nanjangud, Mysore, Karnataka- 571 301 :-** 26236900000084. **Br. B C Road: Ground floor, Hindusthan Towers, Oppo LIC office, Santhi Angadi Kaikamba, BC Road, Dakshina Kannada- 574 219 :-** 20715600000565,20715600000573,20716400086689,20716400086788,20716400086655,20716100025490,20716400086671. **Br. Mysore/ Kuvempu Nagar: No.610, Panchamanthra Road, P & T Block, Kuvempu Nagar, Mysore, Karnataka- 570 023 :-** 24416400010153,24416400011797,24416400010088,24416400012043. **Br. Challakere: Chaitanya Arcade, Bangalore Road, Challakere, Chitradurga, Karnataka- 577 522 :-** 18976400040987.

Bangalore 26-02-2026 Vice President & Zonal Head

The 'closure' that uncovered a Rs 590-cr bank fraud in Chandigarh

Former manager masterminded the fraud at IDFC First Bank

GAUTAM DHEER
CHANDIGARH

It was a routine account closure request at IDFC First Bank Private Limited in Chandigarh that unearthed the country's biggest banking fraud of the year, estimated at Rs 590 crore.

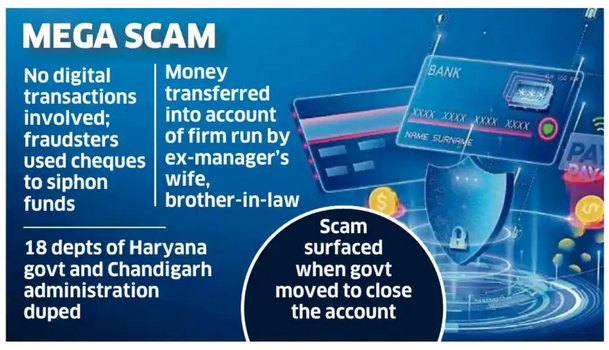
At least four accused, including managerial staff, are alleged to have siphoned off the funds. The scale of the fraud even surpasses IDFC's third-quarter net profit, which stood at Rs 503 crore.

Interestingly, the scam did not involve digital transactions; instead, the fraudsters turned to the fading instrument of cheques to dupe depositors, mainly 18 departments of the Haryana government and the Chandigarh administration.

Recognising the scale of the fraud, the reputation at risk and mounting criticism of the BJP government in Haryana, IDFC First Bank took upon itself to pay back Rs 590 crore to the affected government depositors from its own treasury, citing its 'customer-first' policy. Whether such a 'quick-fix' remedy would have been extended to ordinary account holders in the event of fraud is a different story.

The state Anti-Corruption Bureau has arrested four people in connection with the case — former branch manager Ribhav Rishi, his wife Swati Singla, brother-in-law Abhishek Singla, and former IDFC relationship manager Abhay. Director General of the Bureau AS Chawla said Ribhav and Abhay are the main accused. Both had resigned from the branch about six months ago.

On Wednesday, a local court in Panchkula remanded the accused to seven days of police custody for further investigation.


MEGA SCAM
No digital transactions involved; fraudsters used cheques to siphon funds
Money transferred into account of firm run by ex-manager's wife, brother-in-law
18 depts of Haryana govt and Chandigarh administration duped
Scam surfaced when govt moved to close the account
BANK
NAME SURNAME

Modus operandi

The scheme was meticulously planned, yet daring in execution. The accused routed funds through multiple cheques and debit notes processed by the bank, all bearing forged signatures. The debit notes also had discrepancies, lacking memo numbers and dispatch details. The siphoned money was funnelled into an account belonging to a company run by the former manager's wife and brother-in-law.

Investigators revealed that nearly Rs 300 crore was transferred to a company called Swastik Desh Projects, where Swati holds a 75% stake and Abhishek owns the remainder.

Police are probing whether the diverted funds were used, or intended to be used, for stock market trading and real estate ventures.

The fraud came to light in January this year when the Haryana government department requested the closure of its bank account with IDFC. It also sought a transfer of the entire amount to another bank provided by the government.

When the process started, bank officials noticed glaring inconsistencies in the amount mentioned in the records and the actual balance available with the bank.

Similar discrepancies were detected in other Haryana government-linked accounts when scrutiny began.

According to records, two accounts were opened on September 26, 2025, by the Haryana government — one with IDFC First Bank and the other with AU Small Finance Bank. An initial sum of Rs 50 crore and Rs 25 crore was transferred into these accounts.

In January, the government moved to close the accounts, an action that unearthed the scam.

Parties ask poll panel to conduct TN elections in single phase

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Political parties in Tamil Nadu on Thursday told Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar that the assembly elections in the state should be held in a single-phase, like in the past.

The demand was made by the parties during a meeting that the CEC and Election Commissioners Dr Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Dr Vivek Joshi held with representatives of recognised national and state parties here.

The CEC and ECs were reviewing election preparedness with political parties, police officers, government officials and enforcement agencies in Tamil Nadu.

Sources said all parties unanimously demanded that polls be held in a single phase, while the CEC reportedly told them that the dates for polling will be decided based on festivals.

The ruling DMK objected to the District Election Officers (DEOs) not willing to publish the age cohort details of electors and asked the Commission to direct the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) and all DEOs to share a uniform, standardised roll. "In the final electoral roll as published, names and other details are not properly recorded in accordance with the enumeration forms, and old voter ID card details continue to be referenced. We request that the same be rectified in due course," the DMK said. It also demanded a single-window system for approvals related to election campaign road shows, star speakers' meetings, and their vehicles.

NCERT verifying process which led to error in judgement

NEW DELHI, PTI: Following the ire of the Supreme Court, the NCERT is ascertaining the process of making textbooks which led to the error in judgement about the inclusion of a chapter on "judicial corruption", sources said.

The council is also identifying the persons responsible for the inclusion of the text.

"The NCERT is ascertaining the process of making textbooks, which has led to this error of judgement, and also identify the persons responsible for the same. This would also ensure that this kind of inappropriateness is completely avoided in future. This shall be done with utmost strictness," a source said.

UP minister, Oppn slam I-T raids on lone BSP MLA

LUCKNOW, DHNS: The Income Tax Department raided the residences and offices of Uttar Pradesh's lone BSP MLA, Uma Shankar Singh, who is battling an advanced stage of cancer and is currently in isolation.

Uma Shankar Singh

BJP leader and minister in the Uttar Pradesh government, Dinesh Pratap Singh, who is related to the BSP MLA, objected to the action, writing as much in posts he made on social media platforms.

The raids also evoked sharp reactions from BSP supremo Mayawati and Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav.

Mayawati said the raids were "unfortunate and inhuman".

Slamming the raids, Akhilesh claimed that those who were in the good books of the BJP were never raided.

PM Modi seeks action in NCERT textbook row

Directs Education Ministry to fix responsibility

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

ON JUDICIARY

- Ministry asked to fix accountability for 'judicial corruption' content in Class 8 book
- NCERT reviewing textbook preparation process
- Council apologises, removes book from website
- Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan assures action

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is learnt to have directed the Ministry of Education to take action against those responsible following a row over the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) Class 8 textbook chapter on "corruption" in the judiciary.

The PM, who is on an official visit to Israel, is said to have asked the ministry to fix accountability for the embarrassment.

Meanwhile, the NCERT is examining the textbook preparation process that led to the inclusion of a chapter on "judicial corruption", which sources in the government described as an error in judgment.

Dharmendra Pradhan

The council is also identifying those responsible for the inclusion of the text.

"The NCERT is reviewing the textbook preparation process that led to this error in judgment and is working to identify the persons accountable. This will ensure that such inappropriate content is completely avoided in the future," a source said.

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan expressed anguish over the issue and assured that action would be taken against those involved in drafting the controversial portion. "I am saddened by what has happened and express regret. There was no intention to insult the judiciary. An inquiry will be conducted, accountability fixed, and action taken against those involved in drafting the chapter. As soon as we became aware of the issue, circulation of the textbooks was put on hold," Pradhan said.

"In a democratic country like India, the judiciary is supreme, and we hold it in the highest respect. We have taken the matter very seriously, and the court's directives will be fully complied with," the minister said.

The NCERT's Social Science textbook for Class 8 states that graft, a massive backlog of cases and the lack of an adequate number of judges are among the challenges faced by the judicial system. The NCERT has already removed the textbook from its website.

SC decries women prisoners being denied open correctional institutions

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

RIGHTS AND DIGNITY

- SC says exclusion of women from – or failure to transfer them, despite they being eligible, to – OCIs amounted to blatant gender discrimination
- Says it also infringes upon their right to live with dignity, as guaranteed under Article 21
- Emphasises that prisons were institutions of correction where dignity, self-respect, and social reintegration were not aspirational ideals but constitutional necessities

The Supreme Court on Thursday said that the denial of access to open correctional institutions (OCIs) deprived women prisoners of equal opportunity for rehabilitation, and that it could not be sustained in a constitutional order committed to equality, dignity, and the transformative promise of justice.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta said the exclusion of women from — or failure to transfer them despite being eligible to be shifted from closed prisons to — OCIs amounted to blatant gender discrimination, violating Articles 14 and 15(1) of the Constitution and also infringing upon their right to live with dignity, as guaranteed under Article 21.

In its judgment in a writ petition filed by Suhas Chakma, the court emphasised that prisons were institutions of correction where dignity, self-respect, and social reintegration were not aspirational ideals but constitutional necessities.

"The emphasis on meaningful work, vocational training, payment of wages, humane living conditions, and maintenance of family ties reflects a coherent judicial philosophy that punishment must be tempered by compassion and directed towards reform. Open and semi-open correctional institutions, premised on trust and self discipline, naturally align with this vision," the bench said.

Highlighting that the constitutional vision of rehabilitation and reintegration could not be reduced to policy declarations or paper compliances, the court issued a slew of directions on under-utilisation of existing OCI facilities and their absence in several states and Union Territories (UTs), exclusion and under-representation of women prisoners, strict eligibility criteria and inadequate rehabilitative avenues within OCIs, lack of uniformity and the need for common minimum standards for their governance and management across states and UTs, expansion of open correctional infrastructure and compliance and monitoring.

Direction to states, UTs

The court directed all states and UTs to develop a protocol for restructuring existing OCIs and/or open barracks to allocate adequate capacity for women prisoners. It ordered that the protocol would be submitted before the Monitoring Committee constituted in each state and UT within three months.

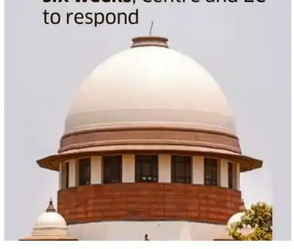
The court also directed all states and UTs to adopt and adapt best practices from states such as Maharashtra, Kerala, and Rajasthan.

SC issues notices to Centre, EC on plea to curb money power in polls

NEW DELHI, DHNS

POLITICS & MONEY

- SC cites US example, says **funding continues via supporter** pacts despite limits
- **Petitioner seeks extension** of limits from candidates to parties
- Court to hear matter after **six weeks**; Centre and EC to respond



The Supreme Court on Thursday decided to examine a plea challenging the unregulated use of money power by political parties in elections, saying that the unbridled influence of money in the poll process must be stopped.

A bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi issued notices to the Union government and the Election Commission on a petition filed by the NGO Common Cause.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for the NGO, said that the unrestrained use of money power by political parties strikes at the very root of democracy.

He added that, at present, the law places limits on the expenditure of individual candidates, though they are not enforced very often since much of the spending is in cash.

The SC, however, said that the issue extends beyond Bhushan's proposal and referred to the elections in the United States.

The court pointed out that while there are spending limits for parties, once those limits are reached, funding often flows through pacts created among a candidate's supporters.

"Let us say an Indian-American pact will fund you. Where is the limit?" the court asked, highlighting how friends of a political party will continue to provide financial support.

The SC further said that if funding is capped at a certain limit, a candidate might still approach the court, invoking Article 19(1)(a) — the right to freedom of speech and expression — saying that freedom through material support is violated.

The counsel argued that Parliament has imposed restrictions on candidates.

The bench said that the counsel now sought to extend those restrictions to political parties. As Bhushan agreed, the SC asked if that would be sufficient.

Bhushan said, "If I spend money on a candidate, it is normally calculated in their election expenditure, but if a political party spends, that is not calculated, and unfortunately, there is no limit on a party regarding the maximum it can spend in a year."

Seeking a response from the Centre and others, the court decided to take up the matter after six weeks.

What a mess, completely unaccountable: SC on tribunals

NEWS DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Thursday expressed displeasure over the functioning of tribunals in the country, calling it a "mess" because "they are completely unaccountable".

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul Pancholi favoured introducing fresh measures to address the situation, while highlighting glaring issues with tribunals' functioning. It emphasised that it was not in the national interest if tribunals were completely unaccountable.

It was hearing matters related to the extension of tribunal members' tenure against the backdrop of the SC judgment last year that struck down provisions of the Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021.

The bench pointed out that a technical member in a tribunal was not writing a single judgment and was asking judicial members to write them, or was outsourcing the task. "What a mess have we created," it said.

"We have created a situation completely damaging the judicial and quasi-judicial systems. What we are requesting is that a holistic view will have to be taken. You have to introduce a completely new mechanism," said the bench.

"Tribunals are permitted under the Constitution, but the way they are constituted, the manner in which they are allowed to operate, and the manner in which they are completely unaccountable," it added. It pointed out that it was not inclined to grant a blanket extension to existing members, but was constrained as the vacancies were not filled.

The bench said tribunals were the Centre's creation, and had become its headache. "They are a headache for you, and a liability for us.... They are a liability for us because of the kind of orders they pass, the way they function, and the challenges which come before us," it told Attorney General R Venkataramani.

The court, however, passed the direction to extend the term of the existing chairperson and members of tribunals as an interim measure.

Gauhati HC notice to Assam CM Sarma over 'hate speech'

GUWAHATI, DHNS: The Gauhati High Court on Thursday issued a notice to Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma over his alleged "hate speech" targeting Muslims.

A division bench of Chief Justice Ashutosh Kumar and Justice Arun Dev Choudhury issued an order for serving notices to Sarma, the Assam government and the Centre while acting on a set of petitions that sought the court's intervention for action against the CM.

CHIEF JUSTICE ASHUTOSH KUMAR

"Each and every statement, they don't co-locate with the earlier statement. What 'vote chori', why we call it 'chori', we want to steal votes – these appear to be blusters... There is a fissiparous tendency, it appears, from what you are showing. Let us see what they have to say.

The petitions were filed by the Opposition Congress, Assamese scholar Hiren Gohain, and the CPM. The court fixed April 21 as the next date of hearing. The petitions were filed after Sarma made several controversial statements targeting "miyas" — a term derogatorily used to refer to Bengali-speaking Muslims in Assam.

The CM had openly said that it was his "duty" to ensure that the "miyas" suffered, as the community threatened to reduce the Assamese communities into minorities.

Sarma, however, has said that he has nothing against the Assamese Muslims.

Lawyers for the petitioners referred to a now-deleted video that was shared on X showing Sarma symbolically shooting at Muslims, and also to his statements about efforts to remove "miyas" from the voters' list.

The bench observed that the statements cited by the petitioners appeared to show a "fissiparous tendency", but said it would examine all submissions before drawing a conclusion.

BJP will win Bengal polls, drive out every single infiltrator: Shah

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

Union Home Minister Amit Shah had lunch with Sashastra Seema Bal personnel, in Araria, Bihar. PTI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said that the BJP will win the upcoming Assembly polls in West Bengal and drive out every infiltrator residing in the country, with the process starting from Bihar.

Addressing a function of the Shashtra Seema Bal (SSB), the paramilitary force which patrols the international border India shares with Nepal and Bhutan, Shah said, "The process of weeding out each and every infiltrator will start from Seemanchal in Bihar. This was our promise during the Bihar polls, and we have to fulfil it."

Shah said this in Araria district of Bihar, where he launched projects worth Rs 175 crore of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and dedicated to the nation a couple of new border outposts.

The Union Home Minister, who is on a 3-day visit to the state and has been holding parleys with the DMs and SPs of the seven border districts, said, "Weeding out infiltrators does not mean merely removing their names from the voters' list in India. They have to be identified and deported. These infiltrators are a threat to national security, disturbing the demographic balance in Bihar, Bengal, Jharkhand and Assam. They avail government benefits, including being fed on rations, which are primarily meant for common Indians."

Shah's visit to the Seemanchal region is significant because this area in the eastern part of Bihar shares its border with the 'Chicken neck' of West Bengal, comprising Siliguri, also called New Jalpaiguri.

Shah also said that the BJP will win the West Bengal Assembly polls, scheduled in April this year. "When we raised the issue of infiltration during the Bihar poll, we were criticised. But the people gave us the mandate. Similarly, we will flush out each and every infiltrator from West Bengal, too, once the BJP forms the government there," said Shah.

(*With PTI inputs*)

FELINE FOOTPRINT

Vulnerable fishing cats thrive in rhino hub Kaziranga: Study

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

Fishing cats caught on camera traps.

An assessment in Assam's Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve has identified at least 57 fishing cats, confirming the rhino hub as a freshwater stronghold for the globally vulnerable wild feline species.

The first-ever study, conducted by the tiger cell of Kaziranga in collaboration with scientist Tiasa Adhya of the Fishing Cat Project, analysed camera-trap images from past all-India tiger estimation data. It found that Kaziranga hosts the highest population of fishing cats in the Terai floodplain freshwater ecosystems — a low-lying marshy region spanning Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and the Northeast.

The Pilibhit Tiger Reserve in Uttarakhand, Katerniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar's Valmiki Tiger Reserve were found to have fishing cat populations ranging between 7 and 17.

The Sundarban Tiger Reserve in West Bengal, however, has the highest population of approximately 385 fishing cats, but these are found in estuarine habitats (a mix of freshwater and saltwater).

"Identification of 57 unique individuals across more than 450 sq km indicates a healthy, reproducing population widely distributed throughout the tiger reserve. The study, which largely relied on by-catch data, arrived at this number, but it is likely to be an undercount, as the data is based on camera-trap grids placed for tigers," Kaziranga said.

Kazrianga is known for its 'Big Five' wildlife species: one-horned rhinos, Royal Bengal tigers, Asian elephants, wild water buffalo and eastern swamp deer.

"Our findings position Kaziranga as a vital ark for this wetland specialist in the Brahmaputra floodplains," said Sonali Ghosh, director of Kaziranga Tiger Reserve.

The fishing cat, one of the few felids adapted for aquatic hunting, faces threats from habitat loss and hunting, with disappearances already noted in Vietnam and Java. South Asia holds its global core population, Ghosh said.

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

When the State polices marriages

By proposing to make parental consent mandatory for the registration of marriages, the Gujarat government has made a retrograde move. The proposal violates the right to autonomy and the right to privacy. Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi announced that the Gujarat Registration of Marriages Act, 2006, would be amended to stop "anti-social elements" from "trapping" the daughters of the state. Sanghavi, noting that the government was not against love marriages, said it was only seeking to protect "the dignity of girls" and *sanatan dharma*. These utterances are in line with a resistance against what the Hindu right-wing outfits term "love jihad". The amended law will require the bride and the groom to declare that they have informed their parents about their marriage and provide details of their parents' identities. The step undermines women by considering them as lacking in agency and judgment, and seeking protection.

This proposal conflicts with constitutional positions – many rulings by courts have affirmed the right of two adults to get married without external consent. The right is a given under Article 21. In *Lata Singh v State of Uttar Pradesh* (2006), *Shafin Jahan v Asokan K M* (2018), and *Laxmibai Chandaragi B v State of Karnataka* (2021), the Supreme Court has ruled that the right to life grants the citizen the freedom to choose their partner without external interference. High courts have affirmed this view. Courts have also struck down the requirement of the 30-day notice under the Special Marriages Act, terming it as an invasion of privacy. The caste or religion of the couple or their parents' consent is not relevant to their decision. In the event of external opposition, it is the duty of the State to protect the right of the couple to marry. Instead, the proposed amendment furthers State control along with familial and social surveillance of marriage.

The Gujarat government's move counters adult autonomy and constitutional protections of privacy

The hoax of "love jihad", spread without evidence, carries a deeply communal agenda – it aims to polarise society by demonising Muslims. Similar measures have been initiated in other states, restricting couples from going ahead with their choice of life partners. Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttarakhand have some of these restrictions in varied forms. That a regressive measure on these lines is not being opposed by the other parties is also a measure of the politics of the state. AAP MLA Hemant Khava and Congress MP Geniben Thakor have reportedly backed the government's move. The national leadership of these parties should make their positions on the matter clear.

Frozen jobs, rising discontent

The anger of Karnataka's unemployed youth spilled onto the streets of Dharwad recently, with hundreds of job aspirants blocking roads and bringing parts of the city to a halt. This was an eruption of accumulated despair. The protestors, who are demanding the filling of around 2.8 lakh vacant government posts that have remained frozen for long, have threatened to intensify the stir. At the heart of the crisis is the deadlock over the Scheduled Caste internal reservation. The government put the recruitment processes on hold while awaiting the Justice Nagamohan Das Commission report, and subsequently passed the SC Sub-Classification Bill, 2025. The Governor returning the Bill seeking clarification, along with other legal issues, has come in the way of departments advertising posts or finalising selections, leaving aspirants stranded. The shadow of past scandals has also slowed decision-making: irregularities in the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) and allegations of corruption in police recruitment have made authorities risk-averse, compounding the reservation limbo rather than resolving it.

The extended hiring freeze in Karnataka triggers youth unrest, hits public services

The scale of vacancies is most stark in three critical departments. The school education department accounts for nearly 80,000 unfilled posts, the health department for over 37,000, and the home department for around 28,000. The fallout is visible. Government schools struggle with teacher shortages that erode learning outcomes and widen inequities. Primary health centres limp along with skeletal staff, undermining basic healthcare delivery. Many police stations function without full-time inspectors, weakening supervision, investigations, and everyday law and order. Administrative fatigue is increasingly felt by citizens through delays and inefficiency.

Predictably, the impasse has taken a political turn. The BJP and JD(S) have thrown their weight behind the agitation, accusing the government of reneging on its promise to fill vacancies within a year of coming to power. Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy has argued for phased recruitment backed by dedicated budgetary support. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, meanwhile, maintains that the backlog is a legacy of the previous BJP regime, citing procedural hurdles inherited by his government. He says 40,000 recruitments have already been completed, while a one-time five-year age relaxation was approved in January. The blame game, however, does not fill vacancies. The government must urgently resolve the roster ambiguity through legal clarity, announce a transparent, time-bound recruitment calendar, and adopt phased hiring to spread fiscal impact. It would be unwise to take the anger of the youth lightly; the cost of further delay may well be social unrest that the state can least afford.

SLOGANS FOR THE STAGE

The return of the goon squad

The theatrical, disruptive Youth Congress protest at the AI summit reflects a steady decline in political decorum

GURUCHARAN GOLLERKERI

At a moment when India sought to present itself as a serious, future-facing civilisational state – hosting an international AI Impact Conference in New Delhi attended by Heads of State, senior government leaders, and global technology CEOs – the spectacle that unfolded inside the venue was jarring.

A small group claiming to be members of the Indian Youth Congress forced its way into the proceedings. In a choreographed act of disruption, they stripped down to their upper undergarments, raised slogans against the in-principle India-US trade understanding, and accused the Prime Minister of being compromised. In an especially ironic gesture, some among them reportedly compared their conduct to the bare-chested austerity of Mahatma Gandhi, a comparison so historically and morally misplaced that it deserves scrutiny of its own.

The target of the protest was unmistakable: Prime Minister Narendra Modi. His image, emblazoned on T-shirts worn by the protesters and dramatically removed during the disruption, became the centrepiece of a political theatre designed not for persuasion but for provocation. The slogans were accusatory, the method confrontational, and the intent – to embarrass the government before a global audience – transparent.

Yet what makes this episode deeply troubling is not merely this embarrassment. Democracies are no strangers to protest. Dissent is legitimate, necessary, and often salutary. But the form dissent takes matters. When political engagement degenerates into performative outrage, when entry into a high-security international forum is exploited for spectacle rather than substantive critique, and when moral symbolism is appropriated without moral discipline, we must ask whether something more corrosive is at work.

The invocation of Mahatma Gandhi is particularly revealing. Gandhi's bareness was not theatrical; it was ethical. It was an expression of *tapasya* – of self-restraint, of moral seriousness, of solidarity with India's poorest. It was undergirded by iron discipline and an unwavering commitment to non-violence and truth. To equate that moral practice with an orchestrated act of disruption is to conflate sacrifice with spectacle. It reduces a philosophy of ethical resistance to a meme.

Reports suggest that the conduct drew condemnation across political lines and from civil society voices who viewed the disruption as an assault on the dignity of the forum itself, and hence of the country. International conferences are not party rallies; they are spaces where national interest must supersede political calculus. To weaponise such a platform for domestic political theatre is to signal that no institutional space is sacrosanct.

The larger question, however, concerns political culture. The once formidable Indian National Congress – the

party that led India's freedom movement and shaped the Republic's early decades – now finds itself associated, at least in this episode, with a style of politics that is reactive rather than reflective. Whether or not the party's senior leadership explicitly authorised the protest, the optics are unmistakable. When individuals claim to represent the party and its leader, their conduct inevitably colours public perception.

Virality of dissent

Political decline rarely announces itself with a single event. It reveals itself in patterns – in the erosion of internal debate, in the narrowing of leadership circles, in the substitution of ideological clarity with sloganeering. The Congress of Nehru and Patel, of Azad and Shastri, was animated by intense ideological contestation within its ranks. It produced policy frameworks, articulated competing visions of development, and engaged adversaries with intellectual seriousness. That tradition appears distant when protest devolves into choreographed disruption. It would be facile to reduce the matter to partisan rivalry. The malaise runs deeper.

Across the political spectrum, we are witnessing the normalisation of what might be called 'street combat politics', a mode of engagement that privileges an aggressive, amoral, and unreasoned disruption. The irony is stark. The AI conference was meant to signal India's technological maturity; its readiness to engage the world on the frontiers of artificial intelligence, innovation, and digital governance. Instead, the images that circulated were of disrobing protesters and slogan-shouting theatrics. In a globalised media environment, symbolism travels faster than nuance. A handful of individuals can distort the narrative of an entire event.

There is, of course, a legitimate debate to be had about the contours of an India-US trade understanding. Trade agreements affect domestic industry, labour markets, regulatory sovereignty, and geopolitical alignment. Critics are entitled to demand transparency, to question terms, and to mobilise public opinion. But effective critique requires facts, analysis, and sustained engagement – not symbolic gestures designed for viral circulation.

If the 'goon squad' has indeed returned – as this episode suggests – it is because of the decline of morality in public life. Political incentives reward lumpen elements because outrage garners more attention than argument, and because leadership across parties hesitates to discipline excess, even encourages it, to serve narrow political ends. The remedy is neither censorship nor overreaction. It is a recommitment to standards. Political leaders must insist that those who claim to act in their name uphold a minimum threshold of decorum. Leadership must be measured not only by its capacity to mobilise but by its willingness to restrain.

'What a fall it has been,' one is tempted to say of a party once synonymous with India's democratic awakening. But the more sobering reflection is broader: what a fall it would be if such conduct became normalised across our political life. India's civic culture is fragile. It is shaped daily by what we reward, what we condemn, and what we tolerate. If we fail to draw a line between principled protest and performative provocation, we may discover that the true casualty is the standards that make democratic disagreement meaningful.

For a republic that aspires to global leadership, that would be a paradox too serious to ignore.

(The writer is Director, School of Social Sciences, Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Before cutlery, there was crab

The crab *masala* and soup were so delicious they made one's taste buds sing

N J RAVI CHANDER

A dish we relished as children was the rich, aromatic crab *masala*. We did not seek out crabs at the market, for they came to us through a crab-monger. The seller, whose name escapes me, visited weekly, fresh crabs nestled in two cane baskets dangling from a long wooden pole across his shoulders. A boisterous Tamil cry — *Nantu, Amma, nantu* (crab, Amma, crab)—heralded his arrival.

A select few in our locality, including us, fancied crab meat. The elders extolled its health benefits: safeguarding the heart, boosting brain function, improving overall vitality, and warding off long-term illnesses. These nourishing crustaceans were harvested in large quantities, and their tender meat was much sought after.

Of the many species of crabs, we preferred mud crabs, with their black or greyish backs. This shellfish was a favourite among Indian chefs for its tender texture. Though crabs are often found in freshwater, they are typically harvested in brackish estuaries. Crabbing is most effective when the tide is either high or low.

The crab-monger would set down his baskets, crouch before us, and pick out the crabs huddled together. Then he would begin dismantling them. Frightened, my brothers and I kept our distance from the unsettling creatures but watched in wonder as he removed the legs, claws, and other forbidding parts. He would rip off and toss aside the triangular flap on the underside of the belly.

His hands and feet bore the wear and tear of his trade. At times, he would mischievously grab a crab and pretend to throw it, sending us children recoiling in horror. With their sharp pincers, sturdy shells, and tiny eyes offering a 360-degree view, the creatures looked almost alien. The crab-monger, a regular at our home, was also an engaging conversationalist.

My mother was a culinary wizard. Her crab *masala* and soup were so delicious they made one's taste buds sing. She had learned to cook from her mother—my grandmother—a fine cook herself. As the *masala* simmered, its rich, spicy aroma filled the house, tickling our noses and setting our mouths watering. We waited with bated breath to savour the tender delicacy. The crab soup, steaming and fragrant with spices, tasted divine.

Unlike today's eaters, who fumble with cutlery and tools, we ate crab with our bare hands. We used our teeth to prise open the shells, our fingers to tear them apart, and our fingertips to scoop out the soft flesh. Messy though it was, we revelled in the experience. The flavours of the spicy *masala* and savoury meat lingered long after the meal ended. I have enjoyed many crab dishes since, but none has matched my mother's. Today, the elaborate and time-consuming traditional method of preparing deters many from cooking it at home.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Omit the chapter on corruption. But clean the system

A three-judge bench of the Supreme Court, led by Chief Justice Surya Kant, has taken serious exception to the inclusion of a chapter on corruption in the judiciary in an NCERT textbook for 8th-grade students. The court considers this an act that could bring disrepute to the judiciary and has directed that the case continue until those responsible are held accountable. The NCERT has apologised and agreed to remove the chapter.
While corruption affects many institutions, the judiciary is relatively less affected. However, including such content in school textbooks risks negatively impacting students' impressionable minds. It is also important to clean the system.
K R Jayaprakash Rao, Mysuru

Reimagine wild frontier

I refer to 'Reframing India's wildlife conflicts' (Feb 26). The analysis correctly identifies "human-wildlife conflict" as a governance crisis. Shifting blame from animals to systemic failures highlights the need for integrated planning. True cohabitation requires recognising wildlife-sensitive infrastructure as essential for sustainable progress.
Shreshta Hebbar, Bengaluru

Make veggies safe

This is regarding the editorial 'Toxic veggies warrant systemic reform' (Feb 26). The report on high lead and pesticide levels in Bengaluru's vegetables is alarming. Authorities must strengthen monitoring and enforcement to protect public health. Food safety should be a priority, and immediate reforms are necessary.
Sarah Elizabeth Joseph, Bengaluru

Bengaluru in gridlock

Daily traffic delays are no longer just an inconvenience; Bengaluru's worsening traffic is a social burden affecting productivity and quality of life. Experts advocate an independent traffic management system, citing fragmented planning and overlapping responsibilities. Coordinated governance is essential to resolving this crisis. A long-term, structured solution is no longer just an option, it is essential for the city's future.
Nanda Prasad, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

As KPCC chief, I've brought the party to power twice. I've served as deputy CM. No one should doubt my capability. It is only the circumstances and the party's decision that need to favour me.

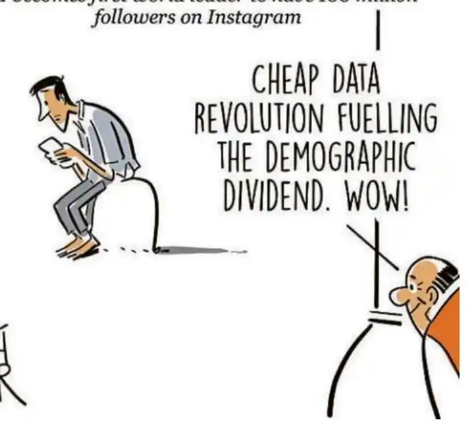
G Parameshwara, Karnataka Home Minister

I am invisible, understand, simply because people refuse to see me.

Ralph Ellison

TO BE PRECISE

PM becomes first world leader to have 100 million followers on Instagram



IN PERSPECTIVE

India's agri engine runs low on fuel

Budgetary support for agriculture remains stagnant, impeding rural employment and consumption

SONAL ANN D'SOUZA AND SUNIT ARORA

Indian agriculture is characterised by extremely small land holdings, highly unequal growth across crops and regions, heavy monsoon-dependence, weak infrastructure, and low research investment. Focused State support is crucial for alleviating the conditions prevalent in rural India by prioritising the needs of the agricultural sector.

In the budget speech for 2025-26, the Finance Minister rightly identified agriculture as 'the first engine' for India's development journey. Development measures focusing on 'building rural prosperity and resilience' and 'spurring agricultural growth and productivity' were among the key areas highlighted last year. New missions such as Mission for Atmanirbharta in Pulses, Comprehensive Programme for Vegetables and Fruits, and the establishment of the Makhana board in Bihar were initiated to bolster this commitment. These were aimed at promoting production, value addition and remunerative pricing. Given this pronounced emphasis, it is an instructive exercise to study the fiscal commitment towards agriculture in light of the recently presented budget.

The share of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare in the Union Budget shows a decline over the past five years, from 3.3% in 2022-23 to 2.6% in 2026-27. Furthermore, the year-on-year growth of the budget revealed a growth of 0.7% between 2021-22 and 2022-23. The budgetary allocations saw a negative growth, that is, -5.6%, between 2022-23 and 2023-24. The recent Union Budget allocation saw an increase of 2% from the previous year. Thus, the increase in budgetary allocation over the years has been modest.

The four ministries – Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, and Ministry of Panchayati Raj – together constitute the core of central government spending aimed at improving employment, incomes, infrastructure, and credit in rural India. Though the absolute allocations have risen over time, their relative share within the overall budget has remained more or less stagnant. The share allocated to these ministries as a proportion of the total budgeted expenditure has declined from 7.18% in 2021-22 to 6.5% in 2026-27. Lower budget provisioning for the sector seems worrying, especially in the backdrop of low agricultural incomes and weak rural demand. Improved allocations and full utilisation of budgeted expenditure could potentially have strong multiplier effects on rural employment and consumption.

Critically, the budget estimates for 2026-27 do not show separate allocations for the new missions that were announced in the previous budget. For example, the Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses was approved by the Union Cabinet on October 1, 2025, with a total outlay of Rs 11,440 crore over six years, but apart from the initial allocation of Rs 1,000 crore made in the previous budget, no further allocations have been made this year. The details of the revised estimates for this year have also not been provided. The lack of consistent funding for the new schemes could potentially constrain their successful implementation within the designated time.

Short of commitment

Some of the major schemes of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, such as Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) and Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS), did not witness any increase in the budgetary allocation and remained stagnant at Rs 63,500 crore and Rs 22,600 crore, respectively. In fact, the allocations made for PM-KISAN are 4% lower than the actual expenditure in 2024-25. The allocation for the crop insurance scheme saw a marginal decline from Rs 12,242 crore to Rs 12,200 crore.

The 2025-26 budget had also announced support for the formation of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organisations, and the revised estimates for the same for 2025-26 are Rs 584 crore. The current budget allocations have gone below the revised estimates of the previous year, to Rs 500 crore. The cut in budgetary allocation is concerning as FPOs are collectives of small and marginal farmers which help them in increasing their bargaining power, better access to input, and output markets.

A few smaller schemes have registered visible increases. However, this is primarily due to the low base of the budget allocation rather than a significant change in the quantum. For example, the allocation for the National Beekeeping Mission rose from Rs 75 crore to Rs 100 crore.

The trend in the budgetary allocation of the rural sector, with particular emphasis on the Ministry of Agriculture, reveals that the fiscal outlays need to expand to fulfil the commitment to the sector, which is being seen as the first engine of development.

(Sonal is an independent scholar based in New Delhi; Sunit teaches at Azim Premji University, Bhopal)

In Meghalaya, the mother's line still holds, but not as firmly

SUJAY B M

Of all the tribes and communities across India with distinct matrilineal features, Meghalaya has long stood out for retaining its traditions amid the march of modernity. However, even this northeastern state is undergoing incremental but definitive changes.

A major reason for matrilineage surviving in Meghalaya is the presence of these traditions across all three major tribes of the state—Khasi, Garo and Jaintia.

Secondly, though the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution applies to four northeastern states—Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram—it is only in Meghalaya that almost the entire state comes under the Sixth Schedule due to its extensive tribal population. This has provided tribal autonomy and the power to retain age-old traditions.

As per the 2011 Census, Meghalaya has a population of 29.66 lakh. Of this, the tribals comprise 86.1% (Khasis and Jaintias account for 47.57%, while the Garos make up another 28%. There are other smaller tribes as well, such as Hajong, Kuki, Raba, and Koch).

Christians make up to 74.59% of the state's population, and a majority of the people from Khasi, Jaintia and Garo communities are Christians.

Each of these three tribes has its own Autonomous District Council (ADC), with legislative, executive and judicial powers. The customary laws of each tribe are protected by courts functioning within the ambit of the ADCs.

This has meant that typical matrilineal features—such as claiming descent from the mother, a boy shifting over to his wife's house after marriage, and the youngest daughter of a family being the custodian of the ancestral property—remain to this day.

However, the influence of other cultures and changing socio-economic conditions have significantly altered the landscape.

P W Suting, a weaving inspector in the Textile Department, explains that married boys shifting to their wives' houses is no longer mandatory.

He notes that the system is scrupulously followed only when a man marries the youngest daughter of a family.

Rutherford Pohti, 29, a tourism buddy working for Meghalaya Tourism and a native of the West Jaintia Hills district, cites the instance of a friend moving to his wife's house after marriage. "My friend Ronaldo (28) is currently living with his wife, who is the youngest daughter of her family. He has three children. He's very happy and is leading a contented life."

Ribis Mallai and Faithfully, from the Khasi-dominated Ri Bhoi district, also acknowledge that the likelihood of a man shifting his residence after marriage is much higher if the woman is the youngest daughter.

However, B T Langstieh, an anthropology professor at North Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Meghalaya, notes that even this custom is changing.

"The economic factor plays a major role in deciding these dynamics. If the youngest daughter hails from a rich and powerful family, it's likely that the boy shifts post marriage. However, it may not be the same case when the girls' families aren't that affluent."

Explaining that socio-economic factors are central to the gradual disintegration of matrilineage, she says: "When people get jobs, they inevitably move out of the state, and these traditional practices won't be followed. Economic shifts like globalisation have emphasised individual needs, and the traditional concepts of matrilineage and collective living are weakening."

Langstieh notes that even in terms of descent, there are people favouring both matrilineage and patrilineage, while a third category is also seeking a middle ground between the two.

Matrilineage, not matriarchy

It is also important to note the crucial difference between matrilineage and matriarchy. While matrilineage refers to the predominance of women in descent and responsibility over ancestral property, it does not include political power.

Thus, most matrilineal societies, including Meghalaya, do not have significant female representation in positions of power – right from the grassroots up to state assemblies and parliament. This is ascertained by the fact that of the 30 members in the Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council (JHADC), only three are women. In the Khasi council, only four of the 30 members are women.

Matriarchy, on the other hand, refers to a system where even the political power is vested with women. The 19th-century thinkers such as Johann Jakob Bachofen and Lewis H Morgan studied the nuances of matriarchal systems.

Bachofen contended that matriarchy was a primordial, deeply religious state dominated by mother deities, where women held power due to their central role in family and society.

Morgan was of the view that matriarchal societies had depended on matrilineage since the early, looser forms of sexual relations made it impossible to determine paternity.

Communist thinker Friedrich Engels later built on these ideas in his celebrated work *The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State*, where he argued that the transition from matriarchy to patriarchy was a fundamental shift across civilisations. However, some modern anthropologists have rejected the idea of a universal, prehistoric matriarchy.

While Langstieh felt the matriarchal system may have existed ages ago at a family level in Meghalaya, she maintained that the socio-political decision-making had mostly remained with men even earlier.

(Sujay, DH's political reporter, was in Meghalaya on a press tour conducted by the Press Information Bureau in early February)

With women now controlling more than one-third of global wealth, they are spending more on art than men do, data shows, and influencing what museums acquire

(Left) Collector Komal Shah with the painting, 'Todos Os Seres São de Todos Os Seres' by Sophia Loeb in her home in Atherton, California. A framed lithograph on paper for Judy Chicago's 'The Dream of the Dinner Party,' illustrated by Carlos Diniz in 1979, in Hall W Rockefeller's temporary faculty housing in Princeton. THE NEW YORK TIMES

Gathering force in the art market: Female collectors

ROBIN POGREBIN

Art collecting has long been dominated by men because they continue to be the main breadwinners and tend to make the big financial decisions. But recent art market data has revealed a surprising development: Women are spending more on art than men are. In 2024, women spent 46% more than men on fine art, decorative art and antiques, according to the Art Basel UBS annual report, a survey of international collecting trends. Female collectors spent an average of $519,960, versus male collectors, who spent $355,570.

In addition, Christie's, the auction house, said the female client base grew by 10% across its business, which includes luxury goods. "It is shifting market dynamics," said Bonnie Brennan, CEO of Christie's. "Women are becoming one of the market's most important drivers of consistent demand and momentum."

Women now control more than one-third of global wealth, a figure expected to rise, according to the 2025 Cerulli market research report. About $124 trillion in assets will be transferred by 2048, including $105 trillion to heirs, and $54 trillion will be transferred horizontally to spouses, most of whom will be women. And while men may still control the money behind many purchases, women are often making the art decisions—and proving more adventurous as collectors, in the process building active relationships with artists. The research shows that 55% of women reported buying works by little-known artists frequently or often, despite just over half of all respondents viewing this as a high-risk purchase.

"In the last dozen years—and especially the last five years—there has been a surge," said Komal Shah, 56, a collector and former tech executive in California. "Women are not only recognising this as a valid avenue of passion, but also embracing the lifestyle that comes with supporting art and artists."

Shah, who has a master's degree in computer science from Stanford University and a Master of Business Administration from the University of California, Berkeley, has, over the past decade, amassed an extensive collection of work by female artists, an exhibition of which opens February 27 at the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, DC.

After touring the 2014 Whitney Biennial as a member of Tate Modern's North American acquisitions committee, Shah became captivated by the work of abstract artists such as Charline von Heyl, Laura Owens and Jacqueline Humphries. Her 400 pieces include works by Cherokee painter Kay WalkingStick and Syrian artist Nour Malas, and many artists have become friends. "The artwork in the collection has a very basic rule, which is, I must fall in love with it," Shah said. "But the collection is truly a broad storytelling of women in abstraction."

The topic of women and collecting will permeate the first women's art forum next month in Washington, organised by Making Their Mark, a foundation that Shah established with her husband, Gaurav Garg, a founding partner of Wing Venture Capital.

Among those collectors expected to attend are Sarah Arison, the president of the Museum of Modern Art; and Denise Gardner, chair of the Art Institute of Chicago. There will also be museum directors such as Connie Butler of MoMA PS1; curators like Adrienne Edwards of the Whitney Museum; and artists such as documentary photographer LaToya Ruby Frazier.

To be sure, notable female collectors have paved the way—among them, Peggy Guggenheim, Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney, Rosa de la Cruz and Agnes Gund, who changed the history of art institutions.

Currently active female patrons include Pamela Joyner, Kathryn Chenault, Patrizia Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Eileen Harris Norton and Patricia Phelps de Cisneros. (Several have helped found private museums, like Beth Rudin DeWoody in West Palm Beach, Florida; Emily Wei Rales in Maryland; and Mera Rubell in Miami and Washington.)

"It's OK for women to take the lead in the collections, regardless of where the resources come from," said Joyner, who focuses on abstract art by African Americans and members of the global African diaspora. "It's OK for women who earn the resources to deploy the resource. It's OK for women who have inherited the resources to steward the resources."

A new crop of younger female collectors is also coming up; the *Art Basel UBS* report said Generation Z and millennial women outspent men, while the reverse was true for Gen X and baby boomers. This younger cohort of female collectors includes Michi Jigarjian, Ayesha Selden, Carla Shen and Sophia Cohen.

And they are collecting differently, art experts say, with a more cooperative, activist spirit of nurturing artists historically excluded from the canon and an emphasis on giving back by loaning or donating their holdings. Some serve on museum boards, where they help institutions acquire work.

"Women care about the ecosystem as a whole, and individual artists," said Arison, the MoMA president. "So many of the women I know buying art know the artists—they've spent time in their studios, it's very personal. These women are not buying something to flip in three years and make money on it. They're not buying it to stick it in storage. We want to nurture and grow things." Many artists say they notice this shift. "More women have been coming into my studio, and what's impressed me most is how thoughtful and engaged those visits have been," said artist Deborah Roberts, who recently opened an exhibition at the FLAG Art Foundation in New York. "The conversations feel deeper, more personal, and more invested in the work, its meaning, not just in acquisition."

Because it can still be difficult for nascent female collectors to be taken seriously by dealers, established female collectors are helping less-experienced ones. Joy Simmons, 73, a longtime collector in Los Angeles, for example, at one point called Pace Gallery on behalf of Selden, 47, a private wealth adviser who started collecting work by Black artists five years ago and wanted to buy a photo-based installation by Hank Willis Thomas. It is now prominently displayed in her Los Angeles home.

"It takes social capital—who are you, tell us about your collection, who you know who can vouch for you," Selden said. "As women collectors, we look back and try to pull other women collectors up with us."

These female collectors are spurring—or at least reinforcing—a growing presence of women on museum boards and acquisition committees, where they can influence exhibitions as well as a museum's permanent collection.

Shah donated works by Mark Bradford and Maria Lassnig to the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, where she is a trustee, as well as works to the Hammer Museum, the Studio Museum in Harlem, and MoMA, where she serves on board committees.

(Gund, over her lifetime, donated more than 1,000 works to MoMA, where she served as president. Cisneros donated 202 contemporary works from Latin America to six museums and 102 Latin American artworks to MoMA.)

Some female collectors are primarily buying work by women and using their purchasing power to foreground artists—and support arts professionals—who have historically been marginalised. Billionaire Alice Walton's foundation supports the development of more diverse museum leaders. Arts patron Allison Berg's fellowship helps cultivate underrepresented curators, educators and administrators.

"The art world is appreciating the talent and perspective of voices they have ignored in the past," said Simmons, who serves on the board of the California African American Museum (CAAM). "That means women and people of colour."

At the same time, female collectors also recognise that art can be a good financial investment. "It's a smart decision," said Anne Pasternak, director of the Brooklyn Museum. "Women artists are still grossly undervalued in the market." **NYT**

Let the city play again

STANLEY CARVALHO

Since the 1800s, when the British shifted their cantonment from Srirangapatna to Bengaluru and thereafter Christian missionaries established educational institutions, the city cultivated a distinctive sporting ethos.

Parade grounds, clubs, regimental contests and school competitions embedded physical culture into everyday life. Over time, that ethos deepened, spreading beyond cantonments and educational institutions into neighbourhoods and public grounds.

For decades, this so-called "sleepy" tier-two city punched far above its weight. Bengaluru produced national champions and Olympians across disciplines, often outshining India's larger metros. Yet, sometime around the 1990s and early 2000s, as the city's economic trajectory changed, something in its sporting rhythm faltered. Despite its rich legacy, Bengalureans have struggled to replicate the scale and consistency of earlier achievements.

At the recent *DH* Bengaluru 2040 Summit, cricketer Rahul Dravid made an impassioned plea: as Bengaluru grows, access to play must not become collateral damage of traffic, congestion and infrastructure pressures. A sporting city, he argued, is defined not merely by stadiums and related infrastructure but by how easily a child can step outside and play.

In today's Bengaluru, playgrounds, parks and open spaces are increasingly scarce. Gated communities and high-rises have replaced open fields. Children navigate packed schedules and longer commutes in a city choked by traffic. The result is not only fewer hours of play but also a slow drift towards sedentary lifestyles—hardly fertile ground for nurturing sporting excellence.

It is worth recalling what this city once represented in Indian sport. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, boxing flourished here, producing pugilists of national and international repute. The sport's popularity has since faded.

Karnataka's men's football team, powered largely by Bengaluru players, won national titles in the late 1940s, 1950s and again in the late 1960s—then endured a 54-year wait before lifting the trophy again. In hockey, while the men's side rarely dominated nationally, the Karnataka women's team—composed almost entirely of Bengaluru players—clinched six consecutive national titles in the 1960s. That golden run remains unmatched.

In tennis, Bengalureans such as Laura Woodbridge, Dechu Appaiah Moola and Udaya Kumar captured national women's singles crowns across the 1940s, 1950s and 1970s, respectively. The city has not produced a national champion of similar stature since.

Badminton offered perhaps the most glittering symbol of Bengaluru's sporting prowess. Prakash Padukone rose from local courts to conquer the All-England Open Badminton Championships, a feat that transformed Indian badminton and inspired generations.

Table tennis, too, had its legends. Usha Sunderraj dominated the national scene through the 1960s and 1970s, winning five singles titles and finishing runner-up seven times. Krishna Nagaraj achieved a milestone that remains unequalled by any Indian—reaching the quarter-finals of the World Table Tennis Championship in 1956.

In athletics, Eric Prabhakar and Henry Rebello represented India at the 1948 Olympics, while Kenneth Powell ran in the 1964 Games. Bengaluru's women athletes—Marjorie Suares, Deanna Syme, Nirmala Uthaiah, Irene Saldanha, Angel Mary, Reeth Abraham and Ashwini Nachappa—consistently excelled from the 1950s onwards, setting benchmarks at national and international levels.

In sports such as cricket, basketball, swimming, and billiards/snooker, Bengaluru has spawned several stellar players.

This roll call of excellence underscores a question: if a pre-Independence cantonment town and a modest post-Independence city could produce such champions, why has a wealthier, globally connected Bengaluru struggled to do the same in recent decades?

Part of the answer lies in the city's spectacular transformation from a "pensioner's paradise" and "garden city" into India's technology capital. The growth of IT, biotechnology, start-ups and higher education has been nothing short of extraordinary. Yet this economic boom has come at a cost. Expanding roads, flyovers and real estate have steadily consumed open spaces. Informal play areas have vanished. What were once accessible public grounds are now commercial complexes or gated enclaves.

Aspiring athletes increasingly depend on private clubs and academies, often expensive and out of reach for many families. Schools, citing safety and accountability issues, frequently restrict access to playgrounds after school hours. Children rush to waiting buses to beat traffic, trading games in playgrounds for games on smartphones.

Bengaluru's challenge, therefore, is not nostalgia but renewal.

As Dravid reminded us, greatness begins with a simple act: a child stepping out to play. Bengaluru must ensure that that act remains easy, and possible.

(The writer is a Bengaluru-based independent journalist)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: FEBRUARY 1976

India, Iraq to strengthen non-aligned unity

New Delhi, February 26.
India and Iraq are in "complete agreement" on the need to strengthen the unity, solidarity and cohesiveness of the non-aligned countries. The Foreign Ministers of the two countries, Mr. Y. B. Chavan and Dr. Sadoun Hammadi, attached great importance to the promotion of economic co-operation among non-aligned countries and greater co-ordination of efforts among them to enable the movement to play an effective role in international affairs.

25 YEARS AGO: FEBRUARY 2001

Mamata spares passengers, offers largesse to Bengal

New Delhi. Feb 26
Presenting a West Bengal-centric Railway budget for 2001-02, Railway Minister Mamata Banerjee today spared passengers of all classes from fare hike but increased the freight tariff on all commodities except essential items by 1-3%. While disbanding the concept of announcing new railway line projects in her budget speech which was marked by protests from members of those states who felt aggrieved, Ms Banerjee announced starting of 24 new trains, seven of them to her home state.

OASIS | ANITHA RAMACHANDER

Breaking free from the mind's time travels

I believe most of us recognise the feeling. You are sitting with someone you love at dinner, and they are talking, really talking, looking into your eyes. But your mind is somewhere else entirely, replaying something that happened yesterday or worrying about what is coming next week. When you finally tune back in, you realise you have missed it. You missed the conversation. The moment has passed, and you were not there in it.

That is the strange toll we pay for having minds like ours. We can time-travel, but we seem unable to stop. Marcus Aurelius, emperor of Rome and apparently a man with a lot on his mind, kept a private journal in which he grappled with this very issue. He wrote, "You have power over your own mind, not outside events." The worries we rehearse at 3 am, the old arguments we reminisce about in the shower, the distress when driving about the opportunities you missed some years ago – all of it is not happening now. All of it resides in a mind that refuses to settle. Yet, now is the only place where anything is actually real.

Think about it. The past is just a memory, your brain's best reconstruction of something that no longer exists. The future is imagination, a guess dressed up as certainty. The only moment where you are truly breathing, truly living, and truly 'here' is this one. That is what the Buddhist idea of mindfulness truly stresses. It is not about sitting cross-legged and feeling calm. It is about having the courage to stop running. To accept reality as it is, rather than constantly editing it in your mind.

Most of us avoid the present moment because it requires us to face something, like asking us to actually feel things, to genuinely see people, to show up without hiding behind our phones, plans, or half-formed worries.

The philosopher Simone Weil said, "Attention is the rarest form of generosity." And that true attention, which is really paying attention to another person, is one of the rarest gifts a human can give to another. Not advice. Not solutions. Just presence. I see you, and I am here. When was the last time someone offered you that? When was the last time you offered it to yourself?

Maybe that is where life truly begins. It does not start with big ideas or grand gestures. It is the quiet choice to return to the table. Return to have those conversations with the cup of coffee growing cold in your hands. To be present is just now. To live in the moment.

CBI registers second bank fraud case against Anil Ambani, RCom

Probe agency cites loan diversion and fictitious transactions

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

ED questions Reliance Group chairman for over 9 hours

The Enforcement Directorate on Thursday grilled Reliance Group chairman Anil Ambani for more than nine hours during the second round of questioning in connection with an alleged bank fraud-linked money laundering case related to his group company RCOM, officials said, reports PTI. He has been called again for questioning on Friday in a separate case linked to an alleged loan fraud against the Yes Bank, they said.

Troubles deepened for Reliance Group Chairman Anil Ambani after the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) registered a second case against Reliance Communications Ltd (RCom) over an alleged Rs 2,200 crore fraud, based on a complaint by the Bank of Baroda. The agency also raided Ambani's Mumbai residence.

The development follows a series of actions by the Enforcement Directorate.

The CBI has initiated another criminal investigation based on a formal complaint from the bank, alleging offences of conspiracy and cheating under the Indian Penal Code, as well as criminal misconduct and abuse of official position under the Prevention of Corruption Act, against Ambani, promoter and former chairman of RCom, and others.

"The allegations in the FIR are that Bank of Baroda suffered a loss of more than Rs 2,220 crore due to loans availed by Reliance Communications that were allegedly diverted and misused by creating fictitious transactions with related parties," CBI officials said on Thursday.

Officials said RCom's books of accounts were manipulated and irregularities concealed. The account was declared a non-performing asset in 2017. However, there was a stay on the declaration of the accounts based on a petition Ambani filed before the Bombay High Court.

The stay was vacated on February 23, after which the Bank of Baroda lodged a complaint, and the CBI immediately took up the case.

The CBI has already registered another case against RCom based on a complaint lodged by the SBI, the lead bank of consortium of 11 banks.

Manipur violence inquiry commission chief resigns

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Former Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court Ajai Lamba has resigned as the chairperson of the Commission of Inquiry probing the Manipur violence, prompting the government to appoint former Supreme Court judge Justice Balbir Singh Chauhan in his place.

The reasons for Justice Lamba's decision to quit the post, to which he was appointed on 3 June 2023, are not immediately known.

A notification by the Ministry of Home Affairs on Thursday said that, "consequent upon the acceptance of the resignation" of Justice Lamba from the post of chairperson of the Commission of Inquiry appointed for the purpose of "making an inquiry into a definite matter of public importance, namely, incidents of violence in Manipur", with effect from 28 February, the central government has appointed Justice Chauhan as chairperson of the panel.

It said the Terms of Reference and other conditions of the commission remain unchanged. Retired IAS officer Himanshu Shekhar Das and former IPS officer Aloka Prabhakar continue as members of the commission, which is headquartered in Imphal.

The deadline for submitting the report is fixed at 20 May. Earlier, the commission was given six months' time, which was extended.

Workers go on rampage at Guj steel plant; 20 arrested

SATISH JHA
AHMEDABAD DHNS

Thousands of workers employed by Larsen & Toubro at the ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel plant at Hazira near Surat went on a rampage on Thursday, demanding an increase in wages, overtime and a reduction in working hours.

Angry protesters damaged vehicles and set a car on fire before the police fired teargas shells to disperse them. The police detained at least 20 protesters and were in the process of filing an FIR. The workers are primarily migrants from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Odisha.

"We were part of the procession when an argument broke out with the company's security personnel. The security officials roughed up some of the workers, which enraged them, and the peaceful protest turned violent," several workers claimed.

The workers allegedly clashed with the police and were dispersed after the police fired teargas shells and used batons to control the situation. Visuals showed hundreds of workers walking along the highway in the coastal town.

Police officials said that the situation was brought under control, and teams have been deployed to ensure safety.

Surat city's Zone VII Deputy Commissioner of Police, Shaifali Barwal, told reporters that initially, police tried to calm down the agitated workers, but they started pelting stones at the police, which escalated the situation. "We detained 20 persons, and the process of registering FIR is on. We lobbed more than 35 tear gas shells to control the situation."

In a statement, AM/NS said, "A group of workers deployed by L&T at AM/NS India plant project site gathered today to raise some demands. L&T management is expeditiously handling the situation in discussion with the workers. Local authorities are also involved in managing the situation on the ground."

Three minors among four held for theft at Hyderabad temple

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Police arrested three juveniles along with a scrap dealer on Thursday here for allegedly desecrating a Hanuman temple in Barkas, Old City.

On February 24, locals discovered the lock of the Sri Dwimukha Anjaneya Swamy Temple broken, a copper vessel missing, and the idol damaged, sparking tension in the neighbourhood. "During the investigation, we formed special teams and reviewed CCTV footage from nearby areas," said Chandrayanagutta ACP A Sudhakar.

"We spotted some Children in Conflict with Law (CCL) acting suspiciously and carrying items in a polythene bag. The special team apprehended the three CCL from Royal Colony, Balapur. Upon questioning, they confessed to breaking the temple lock with a stone, stealing the copper vessel, and damaging the idol," he said.

All three juveniles, natives of Myanmar and currently residing in the area, were picked up from their homes in Royal Colony, Balapur, and produced before the Nampally Court on Thursday. Police also arrested Mohd Abdul Waheed, 60, a scrap dealer from Edi Bazar for receiving the stolen property.

Police said the minors, addicted to vices, hatched the theft plan to fund their habits. Police urged locals to maintain peace, communal harmony, and public order, and to avoid activities that could disrupt it or fuel tension.

Following the February 24 incident, BJP Telangana State President N Ramchander Rao strongly condemned the attack. He called the destruction of Lord Hanuman's idol "extremely inhumane and heinous," citing it as evidence of an ongoing anti-Hindu rule in Telangana.

Rao claimed the series of temple attacks under the Congress regime is a planned conspiracy against Sanatana Dharma.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

I'M GONNA GRAB A QUICK SNACK WHILE THE COMMERCIALS ARE ON SO I DON'T MISS THE SHOW!
WOW...LOOK AT ALL THAT!
HONEY, YOU WERE GONE SO LONG, YOU MISSED THE WHOLE SHOW!
I FOUND SOMETHING BETTER!

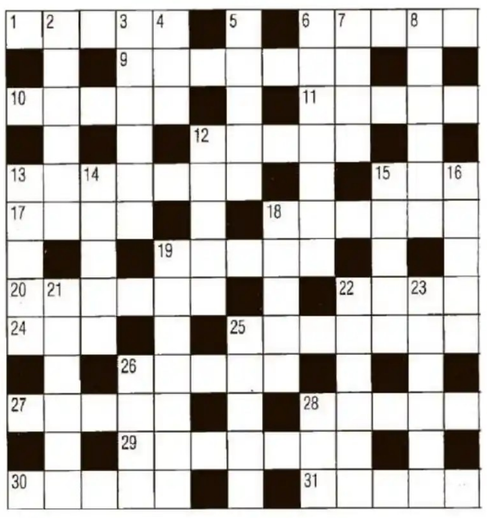
Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12363



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 One's own little drug-store (5)
6 Granted, it's a wicked deed by Charlie (5)
9 Art or craft of the snooker player? (7)
10 Strange argot no longer in use (5)
11 Didn't exactly rush to escape! (5)
12 Footwear a drunkard got out for a sailor (5)
13 Pretend to be discerning? (4,3)
15 Vehicle needed in one's job, usually (3)
17 She lets in the light (4)
18 The blockhead gets these sorted, by order! (6)
19 Punished, some fine day (5)
20 Beat down the old woman with the bad leg (6)
22 Fair maid's forename (4)
24 It's changed, but not significantly (3)
25 Realm of Rex and Dominic? (7)
26 He has seniority and will perform for money (5)
27 No major figure in a centre for divorces (5)
28 Directors sounding bored (5)
29 Not one can be found therein! (7)
30 Written, perhaps, by a non-U deputy (5)
31 Cuddly boy? (5)

DOWN
2 Sour, hard-hearted, fearsome fellow (6)
3 Replacements for broken spears (6)
4 Very good house for the titular head (3)
5 Beastly article tots are upset about (5)
6 Bent on a career in crime? (7)
7 One islet or eight? (4)
8 Be sure to wander in the darkness (6)
12 Nominal issue, perhaps (5)
13 Questionable strength? (5)
14 Near St. Pancras, they get cross! (5)
15 It's hairy, having to carry a deadhead! (5)
16 Such radio you can get to be mates with (5)
18 Start to live on drink (5)
19 Baffled, again, when there's all that water about (7)
21 How the RAF man is apt to shoot a line (6)
22 Overlook the admixture of gin with mineral (6)
23 Tied up, being low on wine (6)
25 His minced steak is sheer poetry! (5)
26 Many an individual gets cheated (4)
28 In between, it can easily be lost (3)

ACROSS
1 Race meeting (5)
6 Gives out (5)
9 Bureaucracy (3,4)
10 Degree (5)
11 Edition (5)
12 Horse's cry (5)
13 Transfixed (7)
15 Secret agent (3)
17 Inform (4)
18 Suitcase (6)
19 Dairy product (5)
20 Happens (6)
22 Meat (4)
24 Affectionate tap (3)
25 Feels remorse (7)
26 Nozzle (5)
27 Sneak (5)
28 Viper (5)
29 Tempo (7)
30 Condition (5)
31 Veracity (5)

DOWN
2 Band (6)
3 Trial (6)
4 Golf peg (3)
5 War-horse (5)
6 Witty remark (7)
7 Net (4)
8 Winning suit (6)
12 Approaches (5)
13 Bend (5)
14 Vote (5)
15 Temptress (5)
16 Shouts (5)
18 Servant (5)
19 Incapacitate (7)
21 Vegetable (6)
22 Seller (6)
23 Affirm (6)
25 Ancient symbols (5)
26 Chair (4)
28 Craft (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12362

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 4, Albert 7, Co-LL-EC-ts 8, Honest 10, Alias 13, Fend 14, Pond 15, Pose 16, Any 17, Aver 19, W-ant 21, Spare p-art 23, Cats 24, May-O 26, Jam 27, Step 29, Slab 32, Da-RN 33, Se-in-e 34, F-AC-ile 35, A-U-strian 36, Eyelet.
DOWN: 1, Scrap 2, Pla-I-n 3, Legs 4, A-she's 5, Bond 6, Resent 9, One way 11, Log 12, A-D-apt 13, Foremen 15, Per(use) 16, (Adam)Ant 18, Vassal 20, A-rose 21, (Uncle) Sam 22, Pa-p 23, Canary 25, Pan 28, Treat 30, Li-Vi-d 31, Beano 32, Dial 33, Sate.

EASY
ACROSS: 4, Siesta 7, Abundant 8, Epochs 10, Spuds 13, Dais 14, Aura 15, Pill 16, War 17, Rail 19, Open 21, Respected 23, Toss 24, Most 26, Cow 27, Aims 29, Aped 32, Lira 33, Clear 34, Fibula 35, Tomorrow 36, Ashore.
DOWN: 1, Balsa 2, Augur 3, Odds 4, Steal 5, Eros 6, Tehran 9, Pilots 11, Pun 12, Dares 13, Dilemma 15, Pip 16, Wed 18, Assail 20, Petal 21, Row 22, Cos 23, Tories 25, Sea 28, Irate 30, Pearl 31, Drown 32, Ludo 33, Chop.

◆SU-DO-KU-6841◆

4	1							
	6		2	4		1	5	7
8			6					
	8	4		6				
1				7				3
				1		6	9	
					4			9
5	4	8		9	6		7	
							8	6

hard

SOLUTION TO 6840

1	6	9	8	7	3	4	5	2
2	4	5	9	1	6	3	7	8
3	7	8	5	4	2	6	9	1
9	3	1	4	2	8	7	6	5
4	8	6	7	5	9	1	2	3
5	2	7	6	3	1	9	8	4
6	1	4	2	9	5	8	3	7
7	9	2	3	8	4	5	1	6
8	5	3	1	6	7	2	4	9

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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							5th Letter Double	RACK 1
L1	K5	U1	L1	C3	L1	S1		
								RACK 2
T1	N1	I1	I1	Y4	E1	T1		
								RACK 3
S1	A1	E1	S1	T1	S1	N1	Double Word Score	
								RACK 4
V4	N1	E1	E1	O1	C3	N1	Triple Word Score	
								RACK 5
K5	L1	A1	Y4	B3	E1	L1		

PAR SCORE 155-165
by JUDD
FIVE RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

E1	A1	R1	T1	H4	E1	N1	RACK 1	= 68
R1	A1	C3	Q10	U1	E1	T1	RACK 2	= 68
E1	X8	I1	G2	E1	N1	T1	RACK 3	= 80
F4	L1	Y4	E1	R1	S1		RACK 4	= 36
							JUDD'S TOTAL	252

PAR SCORE 165-175

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

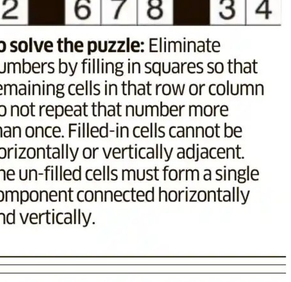
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SUFSY

TEJYT

LAGEOI

XOTDEU


Do you have time for a quick bite, or are you in the middle of writing a review?
You know I keep them short and sweet. No one has time for a full critique.
THE FOOD CRITIC KEPT HIS REVIEWS SHORT SO THAT THEY WERE ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

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Yesterday's Jumbles: HUSKY SIXTH GATHER JUNGLE
Answer: Nervous and tense, the tightrope walker was definitely — HIGH-STRUNG

HITORI-3295

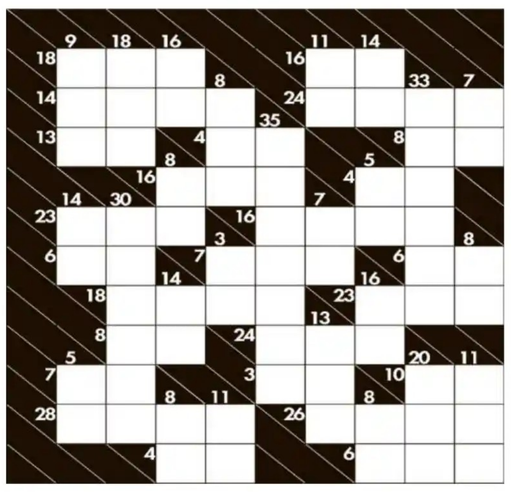
2	5	7	2	8	1	1	6
1	7	4	3	5	2	2	1
5	2	2	1	4	7	4	3
1	2	5	4	7	2	3	2
8	4	2	2	6	3	5	6
4	3	6	5	2	1	8	7
2	8	1	2	3	5	7	1
7	1	3	2	4	6	2	5

SOLUTION TO 3294

5	1	■	2	4	■	8	■
1	■	4	8	■	2	7	5
6	7	3	■	5	4	1	8
4	■	2	1	■	5	■	7
■	8	7	4	2	1	5	■
7	2	8	■	1	■	4	3
8	5	■	3	7	6	■	2
2	■	6	7	8	■	3	4

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3295



SOLUTION TO 3294

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3840

■				1			3	6
	■	1			7		5	
		2	9	3	5	■		
			■		2			
			7	■			9	
		9	3		■	6		5
		7		2		■		
1	■	4				■		
■		3	6		4	5		■

SOLUTION TO 3839

1	8	3	7	6	4	2	9	5
2	7	9	8	3	5	4	6	1
5	4	6	1	9	2	3	8	7
8	6	1	3	4	7	9	5	2
3	9	4	5	2	6	1	7	8
7	5	2	9	1	8	6	3	4
9	3	8	4	7	1	5	2	6
6	1	7	2	5	9	8	4	3
4	2	5	6	8	3	7	1	9

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

ED places prosecution nod against Chidambaram

Agency seeks speedy trial in Aircel-Maxis case

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Narendra Modi government has granted sanction to prosecute former finance minister P Chidambaram in the Aircel-Maxis money-laundering case, following which the Enforcement Directorate approached a special court seeking a speedy trial.

The agency initiated an investigation against Chidambaram based on an FIR registered by the CBI in October 2011, alleging a "quid pro quo" in granting clearance for Maxis' foreign direct investment (FDI) of $800 million in Aircel when he was finance minister in the UPA government.

The special court had taken cognisance of the ED's prosecution complaint, the equivalent of a chargesheet. However, the agency said a Supreme Court ruling mandating prosecution sanction in certain types of cases led to delays in the trial.

Several accused had used the November 2024 order to challenge their trials. To counter this, the ED said it has "swiftly initiated" remedial measures by seeking prosecution sanctions in all complaints involving public servants. It added that sanction to prosecute Chidambaram was granted on February 10.

"The prosecution sanction order has been placed before the special court at Rouse Avenue by the ED to expedite the trial in the case," the ED said.

According to the ED, Chidambaram was competent to approve FDI proposals involving total investments of Rs 600 crore or less, but he gave the green signal for the deal, in which Maxis, the foreign investor, had sought approval for FDI of $800 million (Rs 3,561.91 crore).

As part of a "larger conspiracy", approval was "fraudulently and dishonestly" granted by Chidambaram, with the agency claiming his son and Congress MP Karti received a bribe of Rs 1.16 crore.

Chidambaram and Karti had denied any wrongdoing in the case.

The ED claimed Rs 1.16 crore was received by Karti in his companies, M/s Advantage Strategic Consulting Pvt Ltd (ASCPL) and M/s Chess Management Services Pvt Ltd (CMSPL).

FDI CLEARANCE

- 2011 CBI FIR alleges quid pro quo in $800m FDI clearance
- ED says Chidambaram fraudulently cleared Rs 3,561-cr deal
- Claims son Karti Chidambaram received Rs 1.16 cr bribe
- Modi govt grants sanction to prosecute ex-finance minister

'The Kerala Story 2' release in limbo as high court reserves verdict

Court also observes non-application of mind by censor board

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

The poster of film 'The Kerala Story 2-Goes Beyond'

Hours after a single judge put on hold the release of 'The Kerala Story 2-Goes Beyond' for 15 days, a division bench of the Kerala High Court on Thursday considered an appeal against the interim order and reserved its verdict in the matter.

A bench of Justices Sushrut Arvind Dharmadhikari and P V Balakrishnan reserved its decision following a late evening hearing during which it observed that the pleas opposing the film's certification were in the nature of a public interest litigation (PIL) and questioned how the single judge could hear it.

The bench, however, did not pass any interim order in the court at the conclusion of the hearing, as sought by producer Vipul Amrutlal Shah.

The key contentions in producer Shah's appeal were that the film addressed a social evil and did not denigrate Kerala.

Moreover, the film is not limited to Kerala but also depicts issues in states such as Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

Earlier in the day, a single judge stayed the release of the film, saying that prima facie there was a manifest non-application of mind to the requirement of law by the censor board, CBFC.

The film was slated for release on February 27.

Justice Bechu Kurian Thomas, who passed the stay order on two pleas challenging the film's release, observed that the content in the teaser itself had the prima facie potential to distort public perception and disturb communal harmony.

"There can be a possibility of Kerala, otherwise known for its communal harmony and friendly natives, being identified by viewers across the world as a hub of fanatical and communal divide," noted the court.

"The guidelines for ensuring a film does not disrupt social harmony appear not to have been adhered to by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC). There is a manifest disregard of the applicable law," it said.

The court directed the Centre to consider the matter and issue orders within two weeks, after granting an opportunity of hearing to the petitioner, CBFC and the producer.

(With agency inputs)

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi being greeted upon his arrival at Kalpetta, in Wayanad, on Thursday. PTI

Relief for Cong as Rahul launches Wayanad housing project

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS & PTI: In a relief to the Congress leadership, which has been facing allegations of fund misappropriation in the Wayanad rehabilitation project, Rahul Gandhi on Thursday laid the foundation stone for 100 houses to be built by the party for families who lost their homes in the 2024 landslides.

Rahul said that delays were caused by complexities related to land, permissions and other issues, but said construction could now be completed soon.

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha assured the affected families that he and his family would always stand with those who had lost everything in the tragedy.

He recalled witnessing two major landslides and how people responded to them.

"You have lost a lot, but you have not lost your spirit. You never lost your courage. Most importantly, you did not lose your compassion," Gandhi said.

Wayanad MP and AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who was present at the event, criticised the Centre for not declaring the devastating landslide a national disaster and for failing to provide adequate assistance.

She said Congress MPs had repeatedly raised the issue in Parliament, taken it up with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union minister Amit Shah, and also staged protests.

The two leaders were speaking after the foundation-stone laying ceremony for the houses at Meppadi in Wayanad. They also distributed Rs 5 lakh each to 40 people who lost shops in the landslide.

The Congress is constructing 100 houses, each measuring 1,100 square feet, on plots of eight cents of land.

The CPM has alleged that Congress misappropriated crores of rupees from funds collected to build homes. It also questioned the delay in starting construction. In response, the Congress expedited the foundation-stone laying ahead of the upcoming Assembly polls.

Meanwhile, CM Pinarayi Vijayan will hand over 178 houses constructed for landslide-hit families on March 1.

Army won't be deterred by nuclear threat: Western commander

PATHANKOT (PUNJAB), PTI: The Army is fully prepared for future contingencies and will not be deterred by nuclear threats, Western Command chief Lt General Manoj Kumar Katiyar said on Thursday, asserting that any future conflict would see a decisive outcome on the ground.

The Army commander said that during Operation Sindoor, Pakistan desperately sought a ceasefire while simultaneously issuing nuclear threats.

"They said if they go down, they will take half the world with them. During Operation Sindoor, we ignored their nuclear threats. This time, we are better prepared as compared to the past, with a clear future plan," he said while addressing troops after an investiture ceremony at Dhyan Singh Stadium in the Mamoon Military Station here.

He accused Pakistan's military leadership of perpetuating a "war-like situation" with India to remain relevant among its people.

"While our leadership is committed to the betterment of the country and its people, their leadership and Army generals are only driven by selfish needs—retaining power and remaining relevant. For this purpose, they seek to prolong a war-like situation with India," Katiyar said.

He asserted that Pakistan neither had the courage nor the strength to take on India in open combat and resorted to proxy warfare to provoke a response.

He alleged that Pakistan had misled its own people by projecting a false narrative of victory. "They spread lies in the media to promote their general to field marshal and deceived the public. This time, we will not give them such an opportunity," he asserted.

Lt General Katiyar stressed that future success would not be limited to destroying bases or posts. "This time, we will not limit our victory to destroying base stations and posts alone; our victory will be on the ground," he said.

Infantry Battalion personnel show their prowess during the Capability Demonstration and Investiture Ceremony organised by the Western Command, in Pathankot. PTI

Zubeen Garg death trial in fast-track court

GUWAHATI, DHNS: The Assam Cabinet on Thursday decided to seek the trial of Zubeen Garg's alleged murder case in a fast-track court. This was decided in a Cabinet meeting following a plea by Garg's family.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the state government would soon move the Chief Justice of Gauhati HC with a plea to set up a fast-track or exclusive court for daily trials.

Sunetra Pawar vows to make NCP a national party

MUMBAI, DHNS: Maharashtra's Deputy Chief Minister Sunetra Pawar, who formally took over as the Nationalist Congress president on Thursday, vowed to make the 27-year-old outfit a "national party" once again.

"We have to make Rashtrawadi (NCP) a national party again... in NCP, every worker is the NCP president... let us all work together... Ajit Dada's dreams were cut short... it is our responsibility to fulfil Ajit Dada's dreams...," she said.

NCP working president Praful Patel proposed Sunetra's name for the post, which was adopted unanimously.

Digital platforms must take responsibility for content: Vaishnaw

NEW DELHI, PTI: Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Thursday asserted that digital platforms must take responsibility for the content they host, stressing that ensuring the online safety of children and citizens is their obligation.

Addressing the Digital News Publishers Association (DNPA) Conclave here, Vaishnaw said platforms need to "wake up" and understand the importance of reinforcing trust in the institutions that human society has built over thousands of years.

"Platforms must take responsibility for the content that is hosted by them. The online safety of children, the online safety of all citizens, is the responsibility of the platforms," he said.

The minister cautioned that non-adherence to these principles would make these platforms accountable, noting that the nature of the internet has changed now.

He also underlined the need to regulate the use of AI-generated content, saying such material should not be generated without the consent of the person whose face, voice or personality is used.

"The time has come to make that big inflectional change. I request the platforms to cooperate with this human society's basic needs. The society that is today asking for this change has to be respected," he said.

Vaishnaw said human society is built on trust in institutions, from the family and social identity to the judiciary, media and legislature, all of which operate on the fundamental premise of trust.

ASHWINI VAISHNAW
Union Minister

"the society is struggling with several issues that need to be addressed in the next decade -- online safety, authenticity of news content, safety of the children, protection against obscenity, protection against synthetically generated fake content. All these issues require decisive steps today because they are challenging and even destroying the fundamental tenets of our society: trust in institutions built over centuries.

Citing the media as an example, he said its credibility rests on being unbiased, verifying information before publication and remaining accountable for its content.

Similarly, every arm, every institution built by humans is based on these fundamental tenets, where mutual trust defines the entire core of the institution. However, the way the world is evolving, that tenet of trust is under threat, he said.

Government of Karnataka
AGRICULTURE MARKETING DEPARMENT
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE MARKET COMMITTEE,
Nehru Gunj, Kalaburagi – 585 104 E-mail : apmckalburgi@gmail.com Ph: 08472-257469

No.AMD/APMC/KLB/S&C.T.P/2188/2025-26 Dated: 25-02-2026

:: BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION ::

APMC Kalaburagi for the year of 2025-26 year's hereby invites Tender for Security, and other services and cleaning service in Main Market Yard and Tajsultanpur Fruits & Vegetables Sub-yard of APMC Kalaburagi, eligible concerned department registered Agencies as per Government circular dated:20-05-2024 providing outsource staff as per Reservation and Karnataka Transparency Act 2000 through e-procurement portal. The agencies have to submit all tender related documents, etc. by uploading through **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** website.

1) E-tender applications obtaining date : **26-02-2026 upto morning 11:00 am.** 2) Last date for the submission of filled in E-Tender applications.: **16-03-2026 upto evening 05.00pm.** 3) Pre bid/Clarification meeting : **13-03-2026 morning at 11:30 AM,** 4) Date of opening of Technical bid : **18-03-2026 at 04.00 PM**, 5) Date of opening of Financial bid : **20-03-2026 at 05.00 PM**, 6) Place of opening of E-Tender bid: Office of the Secretary, Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Kalaburagi

1) Service Name : Security, and other services in Main Market Yard and Tajsulftanpur Fruits & Vegetables Sub-yard of APMC Kalaburagi, **EMD Amount (in Rupees) :** Rs. 7,50,000/-, **Blank Tender form rate:** As per e-portal, **Providing outsource staff details:** Security supervisor-01, security guard-25, Computer operator-02, data entry operator-05, driver-05, electrician-01, plumber-01 **total 40 outsource staff**

2) Service Name : Cleaning Service in Main Market Yard and Tajsulftanpur Fruits & Vegetables Sub-yard of APMC Kalaburagi, **EMD Amount (in Rupees) :** Rs. 3,50,000/-, **Blank Tender form rate :** As per e-portal, **Providing outsource staff details:** Cleaning supervisor-01, Cleaning staff -19, **total 20 outsource staff**

Tender processing fees is as per e-portal rules tender terms & conditions as per e-portal and Any other information required can be obtained from the office of the Secretary, Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Kalaburagi during working days and hours or through website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Secretary
Agriculture Produce Market
Committee Kalaburagi

Sd/- Administrator
Agriculture Produce Market
Committee Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/1123/KSMC&A/2025-26

CITY CORPORATION VIJAYAPUR
No:CCV/PWD/EE/DMA/TND/E-proc/2025-26 Dated:25.02.2026
KPP PORTAL SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Executive Engineer, City Corporation Vijayapur invites tenders from eligible tenders registered the 04 civil works and 02 service works under Corporation Fund 2025-26. Tenders are called in standard tender document through E-procurement portal. For further details visit online web site **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**.

Note: Tender Corrigendum and Addendum will be issued in kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal

1) Last date for Tender submission:11.03.2026

Sd/- Executive Engineer, City Corporation, Vijayapur

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/757/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಪಿಎ/2025–26

Karnataka State Forest Industries Corporation Limited
KSFIC Wood is good
(A Govt. of Karnataka Undertaking)
ISO 14001-2015 Certified Company
RMP Unit, "Vanavikas' 3rd Floor, 18th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bangalore - 03
RM Direct : 080-23445646, e-mail:rmrmp.2008@rediffmail.com

No.: KSFIC/RM-RMP/OST/CR/2026-27 Date:26.02.2026

SHORT TERM e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Short term e-Tender is invited for the year 2026-27 to provide manpower from the outsource agency for the duration from Date **01-04-2026 to 31-03-2027**, for those who have registered in Karnataka State Forest Industries Corporation limited, RMP, Unit, Bengaluru as per the approved conditions from the head office.

1. Last date to receive the bid through KPP-Portal is on **17.03.2026 up to 05:00 P.M. 2.** Interested persons have to pay EMD deposit at KPP-Portal as per the detailed conditions laid in the notification **dated:26.02.2026**

The Notification and other details can be accessed from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** e-procurement help line No.080-46010000 & 080-68948777. Further details can also be had from the above Office during Office hours.

Sd/-
Deputy Conservator of Forest
and Regional Manager, RMP Unit, Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/JA/5883/2025-26

MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MINOR IRRIGATION & G.W.D DIVISION, TUMKUR

Ref No.23/2025-26 KW-4 (TWO COVER SYSTEM) KPP Portal DATE : 21.02.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of the Hon'ble Governor of State of Karnataka, as per K.T.P.P act with latest amendments, Item wise "KPPP" Portal tenders are invited for the works mentioned under H/A: 4702-MOT-Pradhana works from the eligible contractors of suitable category registered under KPWD. Tender publishing details are as given below.

1. Tender will be published through KPP Portal on: Dated: 21-02-2026 at 16.00 Hours. 2. Last date of queries on Dated: 16-03-2026 at 11.30 Hours. 3. Last date for Receipt of completed tenders through KPP portal may be uploaded before 17.00 Hours on Dated: 23-03-2026. 4. Technical Bid will be opened on Dated: 24-03-2026 at 17.05 Hours. 5. Financial Bid will be opened on Dated: 25-03-2026 at 17.10 Hours. For further details, visit Kpp portal website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ or from the office undersigned, on working days. If the office happens to be closed on dates above as specified, the next working day at the same time and venue will be considered.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
M.I & G.W.D Division, Tumkur

DIPR/TUM/464/KSMCA/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಯುವ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ ಮತ್ತು ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಆಯುಕ್ತರು ಯುವ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ ಮತ್ತು ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಹಾಗೂ ಮಹಾನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ,
ರಾಜ್ಯ ಯುವ ಕೇಂದ್ರ, ನೃಪತುಂಗ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560001.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕಕ್ರೀಪ್ರಾ/ಸ5/27/ 25–26 [ಭಾಗ–01] ದಿನಾಂಕ: 25.02.2026

ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದಿಂದ ಯುವ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ ಮತ್ತು ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ವಸತಿ ನಿಲಯದ ಕ್ರೀಡಾಪಟುಗಳಿಗೆ ತರಬೇತಿ ನೀಡುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ನೇಮಕಾತಿ ಆದೇಶ ನೀಡುವ ದಿನಾಂಕದಿಂದ ದಿನಾಂಕ 30–11–2026 ರವರೆಗೆ ತಾತ್ಕಾಲಿಕವಾಗಿ ಮಾಸಿಕ ಸಂಚಿತ ವೇತನ, ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ತರಬೇತುದಾರರ ಸೇವೆ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಭಾರತದ ಅರ್ಹ ನಾಗರೀಕರಿಂದ ಅರ್ಜಿಯನ್ನುಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದೆ. ವಿವರಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಕ್ರೀಡೆಯ ಹೆಸರು	ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ವಸತಿ ನಿಲಯ	ತರಬೇತುದಾರರ ಹುದ್ದೆಯ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ
1	ಅಥ್ಲೆಟಿಕ್	ಹಾವೇರಿ	01
2	ಹಾಕಿ	ಕೂಡಿಗೆ/ರಾಯಚೂರು/ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ	01
3	ಸೈಕ್ಲಿಂಗ್	ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ	01
4	ಕುಸ್ತಿ	ಗದಗ	01

ಅರ್ಜಿ ಮತ್ತು ಇನ್ನಿತರೆ ಪೂರಕ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ 16–03–2026 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ ಮಹಾ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ರಾಜ್ಯ ಯುವ ಕೇಂದ್ರ, ನೃಪತುಂಗ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560001 ಇವರಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಮಾಸಿಕ ಸಂಚಿತ ವೇತನ, ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಹತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ಅರ್ಹತೆ ಮಾನದಂಡ ವಿವರಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಅರ್ಜಿ ನಮೂನೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಯನ್ನು ಯುವ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ ಮತ್ತು ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ **dyes.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಮೇಲೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿರುವ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಚೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ

ಸಹಿ/–
ಆಯುಕ್ತರು
ಯುವ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ ಮತ್ತು ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಹಾಗೂ ಮಹಾ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ

DIPR/CP/5877/Zen/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
Public Works Department,
Special Division, Hunsur
Tender Notification
(Through https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)

IFT No: 22/2025-26 Date: 23-02-2026

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka the undersigned has invited itemised tender for 1-works related to Hunsur Division as per terms and conditions of "standard tender documents" KW-4 from the eligible registered contactors under PWD through KPPP Portal. Amount put to tender Rs.241.44 lakhs, EMD amount of Rs.3,62,200.00/- and Tender documents downloaded date is 24-02-2026 from https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in website and Last date for submission of filled tender documents is Dt: 05.03.2026 upto 16.30 Hours. Period for completion of works (including monsoon) Maximum 04-Months, for more details visit the undersigned during office working hours.

Note: 1) The employer reserves the rights to Reject or Accept any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons. **2)** Tender extension/Addendum/Corrigendum etc, will be notified only in KPP Portal and will not be published in news papers.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD, Special Division, Hunsur

DIPR/DDMYS/1746/KSMCA/986/2025-26

ಡಾ.ಮನಮೋಹನ್ ಸಿಂಗ್ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ
Dr. MANMOHAN SINGH BENGALURU CITY UNIVERSITY
Jnana Jyoti, Central College Campus, Dr Ambedkar Veedhi
Bengaluru-01. Ph.: 080-22961016/22111366 E-Mail: beuaccta@gmail.com

No. BCU/2025-26/AUCTION 8 Date : 26.02.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through E-Procurement Portal Only)

NAME OF THE WORK	E-Auction for Investment of Surplus Funds in fixed deposits
EMD	Rs. 1000
LAST DATE FOR QUERIES	02.03.2026
LAST DATE TO UPLOAD TENDER DOCUMENT	07.03.2026
DATE OF EVALUTION	11.03.2026
PARTICIPATION OF BID AUCTION DATE	13.03.2026

Note: Payment of Tender processing fee and EMD amount as per E-procurement Portal.

Sd/-
REGISTRAR

DIPR/CP/5887/SA/2025-26

DIPLOMATIC TENSIONS

India accuses Pak of living in 'la-la land' over Kashmir

New Delhi mocks Islamabad's plea for IMF bailout package

UNITED NATIONS/GENEVA, PTI

Slamming Pakistan at the UN, India has said the country lives in "la-la land" and finds it unbelievable that Jammu and Kashmir's developmental budget is more than double the recent bailout package Islamabad sought from the IMF.

Anupama Singh, First Secretary in the Permanent Mission of India to the UN in Geneva, exercised India's Right of Reply on Wednesday after Pakistan raised the issue of Jammu and Kashmir at the high-level segment of the 61st Regular Session of the UN Human Rights Council.

"India is compelled to exercise its Right of Reply in response to references made to it during the high-level segment by Pakistan and the OIC. We categorically reject these allegations," she said, referring to the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation.

Singh added that it is hard to take lectures on democracy from a country where civilian governments rarely complete their terms.

"They ring hollow. The record voter turnout in general elections and Assembly elections in Jammu & Kashmir is a testimony to the fact that people of Jammu & Kashmir have rejected the ideology of terrorism and violence propagated by Pakistan and are surging ahead on the path of development and democracy," she said.

In a strong retort, Singh said, "If the Chenab Rail Bridge, the world's highest bridge inaugurated in Jammu & Kashmir last year, is fake, then Pakistan must be hallucinating or living in the la-la land."

"Or maybe, Pakistan finds it unbelievable that the developmental budget of Jammu & Kashmir is more than double the recent bailout package they sought from the IMF," she said.

Last year, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had approved disbursement of about one billion USD to Pakistan under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF), bringing total disbursements under the arrangement to about USD 2.1 billion.

"Despite Pakistan's efforts to destabilise the region through relentless state-sponsored terrorism, Jammu & Kashmir continues to surge ahead — politically, economically and socially," she said.

"Pakistan would do well if it focuses on fixing its deepening internal crises rather than masking them with grandstanding on such a platform — the world can certainly see through its charade," she added.

She said the OIC, by "parroting" Pakistan's propaganda, only reveals how deeply it has allowed itself to be co-opted by one member. "Pakistan's incessant propaganda now reeks of envy. We have no desire to dignify such propaganda; however, we will make a few points to dismantle it with facts," Singh said.

India asserted that "Jammu and Kashmir was, is and will always remain an integral and inalienable part of India".

"No amount of wishful rhetoric or audacious propaganda by Pakistan can alter the immutable fact that the accession of Jammu & Kashmir to India was completely legal and irrevocable, and in accordance with the Indian Independence Act (1947) and international law."

Cuba vows to repel US-based 'terrorists'

Four gunmen killed during infiltration bid: Havana

HAVANA, AFP

Cuba vowed Thursday to defend against "terrorist and mercenary" attacks after reporting it had killed four gunmen on a US-registered boat—a bloody incident that added to deepening tensions between Havana and Washington.

President Miguel Díaz-Canel denounced Wednesday's incident as an attempted "infiltration" and said, "Cuba will defend itself with determination and firmness against any terrorist and mercenary aggression against its sovereignty and national stability."

Cuban authorities said their forces responded after coming under fire from a Florida-registered speedboat just off the communist island's north coast.

Four of the alleged assailants were killed and six wounded, the Interior Ministry said. All aboard were Cubans living in the United States, according to the ministry. The survivors were detained and are accused of intending to "carry out an infiltration for the purposes of terrorism," the ministry said, reporting that assault rifles, handguns, Molotov cocktails and other military-style gear were seized.

US denies role

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Washington had nothing to do with the clash and would "respond accordingly" after investigating.

The attorney general of Florida, which lies about 100 miles (160 kilometres) from Cuba across the Florida Straits, also ordered an investigation into the killings.

The Cuban Interior Ministry has released what it says are the names of seven of the people on the boat and said most of the 10 aboard had records in Cuba for "criminal and violent activity".

Another man sent from the United States to take part in the operation was arrested on Cuban soil and confessed, it added. The Cuban government frequently reports incursions by speedboats from the United States into its territorial waters, but deadly clashes are rarer.

Incursion incidents are often related to people-smuggling to the United States or drug trafficking and have included chases, shootouts and armed attacks on border guards.

Cuba situation is escalating: Russia

The Kremlin said on Thursday that the situation in Cuba was heating up and called for restraint after a deadly incident with a Florida-registered speedboat off the coast of the Caribbean island, Reuters reports from Moscow.

Cuban forces killed four exiles aboard a speedboat on Wednesday and opened fire on a Cuban patrol in what Russia condemned as an "aggressive provocation by the United States" at a time of heightened tensions with Washington. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters that the most important thing was to resolve Cubans' socio-economic and humanitarian needs.

Members of the Iranian diaspora hold a protest outside the United Nations offices during new round of talks between the United States and Iran on Iran's nuclear program, in Geneva on Thursday. AFP

Iran urges separation of nuclear and non-nuclear issues at Geneva talks

Nuclear deal framework possible, says Iranian official

GENEVA, REUTERS

The United States and Iran could reach a framework for a deal if Washington separates "nuclear and non-nuclear issues", a senior Iranian official told Reuters, adding that remaining gaps need to be narrowed during a third round of talks in Geneva.

The negotiations have been intense and serious, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Iran's foreign ministry spokesperson said Tehran's right to nuclear energy for peaceful purposes must be recognised and sanctions should be lifted.

Iran and the United States are holding indirect talks in Geneva over their long-running nuclear dispute, to avert a conflict after US President Donald Trump ordered a huge military build-up in the region.

Washington, which says Iran is seeking the capability to make a nuclear bomb, has long sought to link the talks to other issues including Iran's arsenal of missiles and its support for armed groups in the region.

Tehran, which says its nuclear programme is peaceful, has agreed in principle to accept curbs to its nuclear activities in return for the lifting of sanctions but rejects tying the talks to other issues.

Mediator Oman held out hope that Iran and the United States would make more progress at talks on Thursday after exchanging "positive and creative ideas", despite US concerns about Tehran's ballistic missile programme.

Reuters reported on Sunday that Tehran was offering undefined new concessions in return for removal of sanctions and recognition of its right to enrich uranium. Iran had said earlier on Thursday it would show flexibility at the talks.

Omani Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr Albusaidi said negotiators had taken a pause after the third round of talks got under way on Thursday morning, and that the negotiations would resume later in the day.

"We've been exchanging creative and positive ideas in Geneva today, and now both US and Iranian negotiators have adjourned for a break. We'll resume later today. We hope to make more progress," he posted on X, without giving details.

Israel strikes eight Hezbollah compounds in Lebanon

JERUSALEM, AFP: The Israeli military said it struck eight compounds belonging to an elite Hezbollah unit in eastern Lebanon on Thursday, as Israel continues to target the Iran-backed militant group despite a ceasefire.

"Earlier today, the IDF struck eight military compounds belonging to Hezbollah's Radwan Force in the Baalbek area of Lebanon," the military said in a statement.

Afghanistan launches strikes on Pak

KABUL/ISLAMABAD, AGENCIES

Afghanistan's military said on Thursday it had launched retaliatory strikes against Pakistani positions along the border, as a surge in militant attacks in northwest Pakistan killed nearly 20 police personnel and civilians over the past two days.

A statement from the media office of Afghanistan's military corps in the east said "heavy clashes" began on Thursday night in response to recent Pakistani air strikes in Nangarhar and Paktia provinces. "To retaliate for the air strikes by Pakistan in Nangarhar and Paktia, the border forces in the eastern zone started heavy attacks on Pakistani outposts," Wahidullah Mohammadi, spokesman for the military in eastern Afghanistan, said.

The Taliban also said its forces had captured 15 Pakistani military outposts. "Heavy offensive retaliatory attacks have been launched against the enemy," said Hamdullah Fitrat, the Afghan government's deputy spokesman.

"So far, 15 outposts have been captured."

There was no immediate confirmation from Pakistan.

Pakistan slams India

The Foreign Office on Thursday rejected India's remarks condemning airstrikes by the Pakistani military in Afghanistan that resulted in civilian casualties.

Taliban fighters guard the Afghanistan-Pakistan border in Spin Boldak. REUTERS FILE

Addressing his weekly press briefing, Foreign Office spokesperson Tahir Andrabi said that the airstrikes were carried out to target militant hideouts in Afghanistan in retaliation for the recent rebel attacks in the country. "We completely reject India's statement," he said. He alleged that India was "involved in supporting terrorist activities against Pakistan". He, however, did not provide any evidence in support of his claims.

India's External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal on Sunday described the strikes as another attempt by Pakistan to "externalise its internal failures", and reiterated India's support for Afghanistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence. "India strongly condemns Pakistan's airstrikes on Afghan territory that have resulted in civilian casualties."

Pakistani man on trial over plot to assassinate Trump

NEW YORK, AP/PTI: The trial began this week of a Pakistani man who US prosecutors say had ties to the Iranian government and travelled to New York to meet with men he thought he was recruiting to carry out political assassinations on American soil, including potentially of President Donald Trump.

Asif Merchant, 47, faces a life sentence if he's convicted of terrorism charges. His trial got underway on Wednesday in a federal court in Brooklyn.

Prosecutors said in court filings that a man who Merchant initially met when he arrived in New York in April 2024 later notified authorities about the plot and became a confidential informant, The New York Times reported. Merchant later paid a USD 5,000 advance to two would-be assassins who were actually undercover FBI agents, prosecutors said.

At the time, Merchant did not specify who the target would be, but court filings show the potential targets included high-level officials such as Trump.

Merchant, who has maintained his innocence, is a deeply religious man who frequently travelled to Iran and Pakistan, where he has separate families, which his lawyers noted is legal in both countries he calls home.

North Korea warns it could destroy South Korea if threatened

SEOUL (SOUTH KOREA), AP/PTI

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un claimed his nuclear-armed country could "completely destroy" South Korea if its security were threatened, reiterating his refusal to engage with Seoul, state media said on Thursday.

However, he left the door open to dialogue with Washington as he concluded a ruling party congress outlining his policy goals for the next five years. State media said that Kim also called for developing new weapons systems to bolster his nuclear-armed military, including intercontinental ballistic missiles and an expanded arsenal of tactical nuclear weapons, such as artillery and short-range missiles, targeting South Korea.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and his daughter Kim Ju Ae in Pyongyang on Wednesday. AFP

He said the accelerated development of his nuclear and missile programme "permanently cemented" the country's status as a nuclear weapons state, and called for the US to discard what he perceives as "hostile" policies toward the North as a precondition for resuming long-stalled dialogue.

The Workers' Party congress, which began last Thursday in Pyongyang, comes as Kim carves out a more forceful regional presence, leveraging his expanding military nuclear programme and a growing alignment with Moscow.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Palestinians react as they wait to receive food at a soup kitchen in Khan Yunis, in the southern Gaza Strip, on Thursday. AFP

Trump admin's third country deportation policy 'unlawful'

▸ The Trump administration's latest policy of deporting immigrants to "third countries" to which they have no ties is unlawful and must be set aside, a federal judge ruled Wednesday in a case that already reached the nation's highest court, AP/PTI reports from Washington.

US District Judge Brian E Murphy in Massachusetts agreed to suspend his decision for 15 days, giving the government time to appeal his latest ruling in the case. Murphy noted that the US Supreme Court ruled in the administration's favour last year, pausing Murphy's previous decision and clearing the way for a flight carrying several migrants to complete its trip to war-torn South Sudan, where they had no ties. Murphy said migrants challenging the Department of Homeland Security's policy have the right to "meaningful notice" and an opportunity to object before they are removed to a third country. The policy "extinguishes valid challenges to third-country removal by effecting removal before those challenges can be raised," the judge concluded.

Hillary testifies in Epstein case

▸ Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton testified before US House lawmakers in New York on Thursday as part of a congressional probe into convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, saying she has no information on Epstein's criminal activities and never recalls meeting him, AP/PTI reports from Washington.

Her testimony starts off two days of depositions that will also include former President Bill Clinton. The closed-door depositions in the Clintons' hometown of Chappaqua, a typically quiet hamlet north of New York City, come after months of tense back-and-forth between the former high-powered Democratic couple and the Republican-controlled House Oversight Committee.

A Pro Mazer, a remote shooting control unit, is displayed at Enforce Tac, a trade fair for security, in Nuremberg, Germany, on Wednesday. REUTERS

Rare court relief for Jimmy Lai

▸ A Hong Kong appellate court on Thursday quashed fraud convictions against onetime media magnate Jimmy Lai, a rare victory in the prominent activist's legal battles, AP/PTI reports from Hong Kong.

Lai, 78, an outspoken critic of China's ruling Communist Party who founded the now-defunct Apple Daily, will stay in prison because he was sentenced to 20 years weeks earlier after being convicted in another case brought under a China-imposed national security law. That came more than five years after he was arrested under the law, which was used in a years-long crackdown on many of Hong Kong's leading activists. His plight has evoked grief over the city's loss of press freedom and sparked an international outcry, though the city's authorities insist his case had nothing to do with media independence.

Court denies Prateek Gupta plea

▸ Indian businessman Prateek Gupta was refused permission by the London High Court on Thursday to appeal against a ruling that he defrauded commodities trader Trafigura over fake nickel cargoes, Reuters reports from London.

Geneva-based Trafigura alleged Gupta was the mastermind of a fraudulent "Ponzi scheme" in which he and his companies agreed to provide high-quality 99.8% pure nickel but delivered low-value or even worthless materials. Gupta accepted he did not deliver high-grade nickel cargoes but said Trafigura staff devised the scheme, something Trafigura's former head nickel trader Sokratis Oikonomou denied.

Actress Celeste O'Connor attends the premiere of "Scream 7" at the Paramount Theatre in Los Angeles on Wednesday. AFP

Goyal, Lutnick discuss trade, economic partnership

Meeting amid uncertainty over India-US trade deal

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday held a meeting with US Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick and US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor, and discussed ways to expand trade and economic partnership between the two countries.

Goyal confirmed the meeting through a post on X. The minister informed that he hosted the key aides of US President Donald Trump. "Engaged in very fruitful discussions to expand our trade and economic partnership," he wrote in a brief post.

The meeting comes amid growing uncertainty over the India-US trade deal. At the beginning of this month, the two countries announced a framework for an interim trade deal. However, the recent US Supreme Court ruling that struck down the sweeping reciprocal duty structure introduced by the Trump's administration, has led to uncertainty.

The Indian trade negotiators' planned visit to Washington was put on hold. Details of Lutnick's visit to New Delhi were not previously disclosed.

Gor also announced about the meeting through a social media post. A "highly productive lunch" with Howard Lutnick and Piyush Goyal, Gor said. "So many areas of cooperation for our two nations," he added.

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal greets US Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick in New Delhi on Thursday. PTI

According to BMI (a unit of Fitch Solutions), uncertainties over Trump's tariffs are likely to continue in the coming months.

Following the US Supreme Court's decision limiting the use of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) for sweeping tariffs, the Trump administration implemented a replacement global surcharge under Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974 intended to address "international payments problems" and rebalance trade.

While Trump indicated the global rate could be lifted to 15%, official documentation shows tariffs entering into force at 10%. These tariffs are explicitly time-limited to 150 days and will be in place from February 24, 2026 to July 24, 2026, unless extended by Congress.

"This has reinforced a fast-changing policy environment, uncertainty for firms and trading partners, and increased the perceived risk of retaliation as the US retains significant leverage to re-price market access quickly," BMI said in a note.

Sebi rejigs classification of mutual fund schemes

Introduces Life Cycle Funds, scraps Solution-Oriented Schemes

NEW DELHI, PTI

Markets regulator Sebi on Thursday came out with a revamped framework for classification of mutual fund (MF) schemes, introducing Life Cycle Funds, scrapping the Solution-Oriented Schemes category and tightening disclosure and overlap norms to enhance uniformity and investor protection.

The move, aimed at ensuring "true-to-label" positioning and curbing exaggerated return claims in scheme names, comes as Sebi seeks to align the regulatory architecture with the evolving MF landscape and emerging opportunities across asset classes.

In its circular, Sebi has broadly classified schemes into five categories — equity, debt, hybrid, life cycle and other schemes — Fund of Fund (FoF) Schemes and Passive Schemes, such as Index Funds or ETFs.

"For easy identification by investors, in order to bring uniformity in names of schemes for a particular category across mutual funds and to ensure that schemes remain 'true-to-label', the scheme name shall be the same as the scheme category," Sebi said.

"Words, phrases that highlight or emphasise only the return aspect of the scheme shall not be used in the name of the scheme," it added.

The "type of scheme" description in offer documents and advertisements must strictly follow Sebi's prescribed format.

Nikunj Saraf, CEO at Choice Wealth said Sebi's new classification rules are a meaningful step towards simplifying an industry that had become increasingly complex for retail investors.

"By clearly defining categories across equity, debt, hybrid and solution-oriented funds and setting uniform asset allocation boundaries, the regulator is ensuring that schemes truly reflect what they claim to be.," he added.

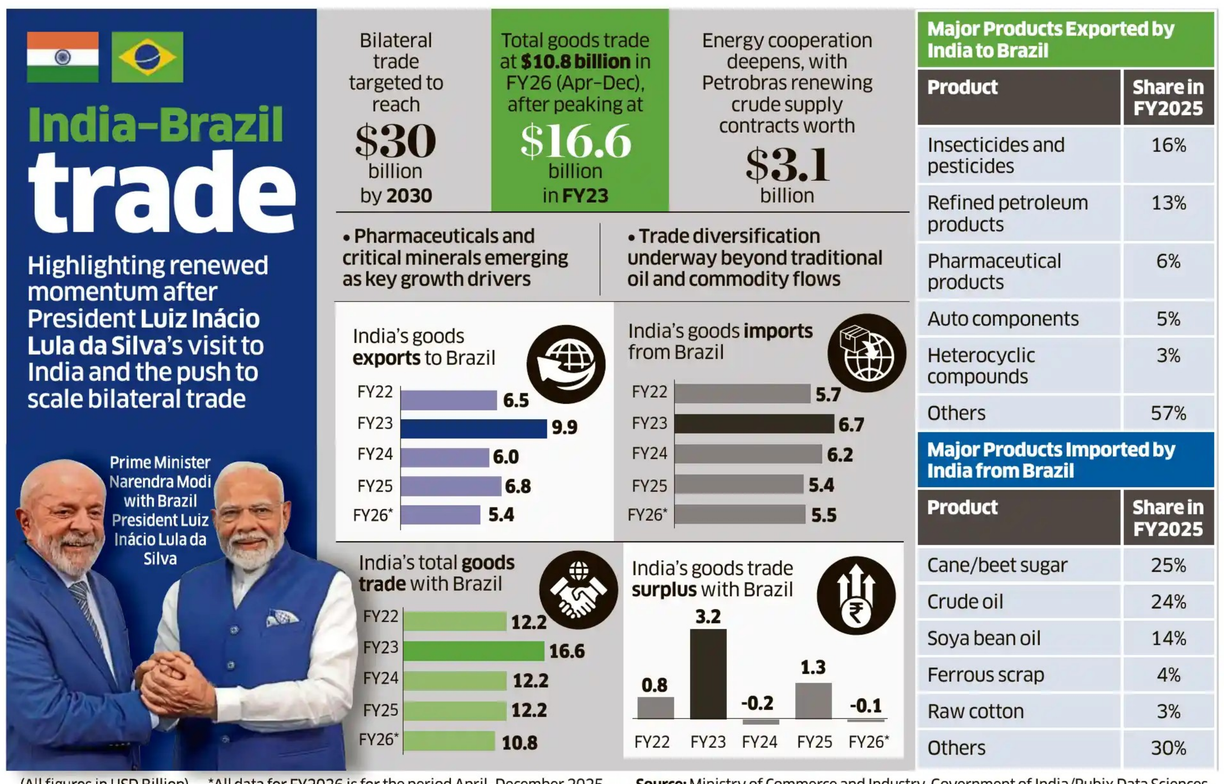
Further, Sebi said foreign securities will no longer be treated as a separate asset class.

Asia's largest animation show GAFX 2026 opens today

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Department of Electronics, Information Technology, Biotechnology and Science & Technology, Government of Karnataka, along with the Association of Bangalore Animation Industry (ABAI), is organising the 7th edition of Bengaluru GAFX 2026. The event is touted to be Asia's largest annual conference and exhibition for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics, XR and immersive and interactive content, and opens on February 27, and closes on March 1, at Hotel Lalit Ashok here.

The summit will bring together creators, technologists, investors, policymakers, studios, education leaders and industry bodies from India and abroad, reinforcing Karnataka's position as a leading hub for the AVGC-XR and creative technology ecosystem. It will be inaugurated by CM Siddaramaiah and DyCM DK Shivakumar, along with actor Sudeep, and Rajan Navani, President, IDGS and Founder & CEO, Jetsynthesys.

A major highlight of GAFX 2026 will be the first-ever exclusive behind-the-scenes showcase of Kantara: Chapter 1, offering audiences and professionals a rare look into the making of one of India's most-anticipated cinematic projects. For the first time, GAFX will also present a deep dive into the making of the Oscar-nominated animated short film Cardboard by DNEG Animation, as well as a craft session on the Oscar-nominated feature The Lost Bus by Industrial Light & Magic (ILM), said IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge.


India-Brazil trade
Highlighting renewed momentum after President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's visit to India and the push to scale bilateral trade
Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Brazil President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva
Bilateral trade targeted to reach $30 billion by 2030
Total goods trade at $10.8 billion in FY26 (Apr-Dec), after peaking at $16.6 billion in FY23
Energy cooperation deepens, with Petrobras renewing crude supply contracts worth $3.1 billion
• Pharmaceuticals and critical minerals emerging as key growth drivers
• Trade diversification underway beyond traditional oil and commodity flows
India's goods exports to Brazil
FY22 6.5
FY23 9.9
FY24 6.0
FY25 6.8
FY26* 5.4
India's goods imports from Brazil
FY22 5.7
FY23 6.7
FY24 6.2
FY25 5.4
FY26* 5.5
India's total goods trade with Brazil
FY22 12.2
FY23 16.6
FY24 12.2
FY25 12.2
FY26* 10.8
India's goods trade surplus with Brazil
FY22 0.8
FY23 3.2
FY24 -0.2
FY25 1.3
FY26* -0.1
(All figures in USD Billion) *All data for FY2026 is for the period April-December 2025
Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India/Rubix Data Sciences

Major Products Exported by India to Brazil

Product	Share in FY2025
Insecticides and pesticides	16%
Refined petroleum products	13%
Pharmaceutical products	6%
Auto components	5%
Heterocyclic compounds	3%
Others	57%

Major Products Imported by India from Brazil

Product	Share in FY2025
Cane/beet sugar	25%
Crude oil	24%
Soya bean oil	14%
Ferrous scrap	4%
Raw cotton	3%
Others	30%

LTM to modernise tax analytics tool

BENGALURU, DHNS: IT services firm LTM is partnering with NVIDIA to support the CBDT in modernising the country's national tax analytics platform under the Insight 2.0 initiative.

LTM will deploy a secure cloud environment powered by NVIDIA AI infrastructure to simplify workloads and offer real-time insights for CBDT. LTM's BlueVerse serves as the intelligence backbone, enabling AI integration across all operational layers of the tax platform, supporting features such as a smart citizen portal, automated campaign management, enhanced case workflows, and AI-driven help desk assistance.

Semicon GCCs shift gear: Less hiring, more precision

BENGALURU, DHNS

India's semiconductor design Global Capability Centres (GCCs) spent much of 2025 pulling back on hiring, but a fourth-quarter recovery and sharpening strategic focus suggest that the sector is recalibrating rather than retreating, according to a new report by talent solutions firm Careernet. An analysis of hiring data across the top-50 semiconductor design GCCs shows that open positions declined steadily from January to October in CY2025, making Q2 the weakest quarter for new demand.

According to Careernet's latest report, India's Semiconductor Design GCC Talent Ecosystem — CY 2025, October emerged as the lowest point across GCCs of all sizes, reflecting a sector-wide shift from expansion-led hiring to optimisation and cost discipline.

However, Q4CY2025 signalled renewed confidence, with November and December recording the strongest month-on-month uptick in job openings during the year, though hiring volumes remained below early-2025 levels.

Hiring momentum

Large GCCs (over 5,000 employees) saw the widest swings in monthly hiring, while small GCCs displayed high volatility, reacting faster to market signals. Mid-sized GCCs (1,000-5,000 employees) remained the most-stable, with relatively-controlled fluctuations through the year. Notably, Q4 recorded at least one month of positive hiring momentum across GCCs of all sizes, indicating selective green shoots rather than a broad-based rebound.

The study highlights that Core VLSI roles accounted for 44% of total open positions in Q4CY2025. Within VLSI (active talent pool of 2.6 lakh professionals), Verification (28%) and Front-end Design (26%) led demand, with a talent pool of 200,000 professionals, followed by Physical Verification (18%) and Physical Design (14%). System and Application Software roles contributed 40% of open positions, reflecting the growing convergence of hardware design and software-driven optimisation.

Neelabh Shukla, Chief Business Officer, Careernet, said, "The hiring correction seen in Q4 of CY 2025 points to a structural shift in India's semiconductor design ecosystem. It reflects a combination of global demand normalisation, tighter cost controls, and more disciplined capital allocation across semiconductor design GCCs. As the sector matures, organisations are moving away from expansion-led hiring toward prioritising roles that deliver direct design impact and long-term IP value."

BCIC releases new logo

BENGALURU, DHNS: Mysuru-Kodagu Lok Sabha MP and scion of the erstwhile Mysuru royal family Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar unveiled the new logo of the Bangalore Chamber of Industry and Commerce (BCIC) on Thursday, marking the organisation's golden jubilee.

Wadiyar said the new logo, drawn from his family's coat of arms, signified a modern outlook on the future. "It is emblematic of the resilience that the industries have shown in a period of boom in the economy and the strength it will continue to display in the coming decades," he added.

No extra charge for changes within 48 hrs of booking: DGCA

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Passengers booking a flight ticket can cancel or change the date within 48 hours, without paying any additional charges. Also, airlines have been barred from levying extra charge for correcting names in tickets, if the error is pointed out in 24 hours.

These passenger-friendly rules, which will be available for those who book tickets using airline websites, will take effect from March 26, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said, in a fresh 'Civil Aviation Requirements' (CAR) on 'Refund of Airline Tickets to Passengers of Public Transport Undertakings' issued on Tuesday.

The new regulations came as the refund of tickets has become a "major source" of grievance and the volume of complaints "necessitates some affirmative actions" to safeguard public interests, though the government is "committed not to interfere" in commercial practices.

"The matter has been discussed in several meetings with airlines with no improvement in the system adopted by them for ticket refunds. It is now considered that the onus rests with the government to fix some minimum benchmarks, as far as the refund policy is concerned, in order to stem the growing dissatisfaction among passengers regarding refund procedures adopted by some airlines," it said. According to the fresh CAR, the onus of refund shall lie with the airlines in case of purchase of ticket through travel agent/portal, as agents are their appointed representatives. The airlines should ensure that the refund process is completed within 14 working days.

Providing a 'Look-in option' for a period of 48 hours to passengers after booking tickets, the CAR said, "during this period a passenger can cancel or amend the ticket without any additional charges, except for the normal prevailing fare for the revised flight for which the ticket is sought to be amended".

"This facility shall not be available for a flight whose departure is less than seven days for domestic flights, and 15 days for international flights from the booking date, when the ticket is booked directly through the airline website. Beyond 48 hours of initial booking time, this option would not be available and the passenger would have to pay the relevant cancellation fees for amendment," it said.

The DGCA also said airlines cannot levy additional charges for correction in the name of the same person, when the error is pointed out within 24 hours of making the booking, when the ticket is booked directly through the airline website.

It added that in the event of ticket cancellations due to medical emergency, where the passenger or a family member listed on the same PNR gets admitted or hospitalised during the travel period, airlines may provide a refund or a credit shell.

DH DECIPHERS

GDP base year reset: Key data and methodological changes in new series

India is set to adopt a new GDP series with 2022-23 as the base year, replacing the decade-old 2011-12 series. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation is scheduled to release the national accounts data based on the new series on Friday. Apart from the base year, the new series also incorporates several methodological and statistical upgrades. In this issue of DH Deciphers, **Gyanendra Keshri** *decodes the new GDP series and its impact on the country's macroeconomic data.*

What is Gross Domestic Product?
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the total monetary value of final goods and services produced within a country's borders during a specific period, usually a year or quarter. It serves as a primary indicator of economic health, measuring production, income, and expenditure. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation prepares the country's GDP estimates as per the 2008 System of National of Accounts (SNA 2008). Two types of GDP data are released: Nominal GDP is measured at current market prices without adjusting for inflation; Real GDP data is derived by adjusting for inflation to reflect true production volume changes.

What is the base year?
The base year in National Accounts Statistics is the reference year whose prices are used to calculate real growth. It is used for calculating real GDP data. It helps in assessing whether growth has been caused by increased production or price changes. Rebasing refers to a process of updating base-period benchmarks with new updated statistics to arrive at a new economic structure that will serve as the basis for estimating GDP and its components, consumer price index and index of industrial production, moving forward.

Why has FY2022-23 been chosen as the new base year?
The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has decided to update the base year of the national accounts from the 2011-12 to 2022-23. The MoSPI's stated goal is to revise the base year every five years. However, the years between FY2017-18 and FY 2021-22 were not suitable as base year because of major disruptive changes in the economy. GST was introduced in 2017-18. It required time for consolidation. FY2019-20 and FY2020-21 were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2021-22 fiscal witnessed sharp GDP growth largely due to the base effect of post-COVID recovery, making it unsuitable. An Advisory Committee set up by the government found FY2022-23 to be a normal economic year to make it a base year.

How will it impact old GDP data?
Apart from latest quarterly and yearly estimates, the ministry is also expected to release back series data on the national accounts. Both the annual and quarterly estimates for the year 2022-23 to 2025-26 are expected to be released on Friday. Until the July-September quarter, the ministry has already released the national accounts data based on the 2011-12 series. Quarterly data from April-June 2022 to July-September 2025 is likely to be released based on the back series. The October-December 2025 quarter data will be the first based on the 2022-23 base year. As per the practice, back-series estimates are recalculated using revised methodology of the new GDP series up to the previous base year. After that, the data is linked at a disaggregated level and extended back to 1950-51.

What new data are being incorporated in the new series?
Several new data sources including GST, e-Vahan and household services provided by cooks, drivers, and domestic helps, are being used in the new series. Earlier, the household sector was estimated using growth rates between surveys or proxy indicators. In the new series, actual level estimates are being prepared using regular annual surveys such as Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprise (ASUSE) and Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS). Data from GST are being used for allocation of all-India estimates for private corporate sector across states, and for cross-validation in annual accounts, besides its extensive use in quaternisation and as an indicator in Quarterly National Accounts. Data from e-Vahan is being used to estimate Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE) related to road transport services.

Antony-ridden Pride's Prince bags R N Kanga Trophy

MUMBAI RESULTS

Pride's Prince, from the stables of Imtiaz Sait and ridden by Antony Raj, won the R N Kanga Trophy, the feature event of the Mumbai races on Thursday.

1. R N Kanga Trophy - 1600M: Pride's Prince (Sudendu Shah) Antony Raj 1; The Millennium Force (Trevor Patel) 2; Chagall (A Prakash) 3; Shubankar (Bhawani Singh) 4; Wb: Snk, 2-1/2, 4-1/4L. T: 1-35.30. TB: Imtiaz Sait. Fav: The Millennium Force.

2. A F S Talyarkhan Salver - 1000M: Lempika (K N Dhunjibhoy) G Vivek 1; Funny Bunny (S Kamble) 2; Absolute Emperor (Ajinkya) 3; Shadai (David Allan) 4; Wb: 3/4, 1, 3/4L.. T: 0-58.41. TB: Adhirajsingh Jodha. Fav: Ghost Of Victory.

3. Pradeep Vijaykar Plate - 1200M: Cindrella's Dream (Faisal Abbas) Trevor Patel 1; Surealist (G Vivek) 2; Medusa (Umesh) 3; Foujita (A Prakash) 4; Wb: 1-1/2, 1/2, 3/4L. 1-10.00. TB: Faisal Abbas. Fav: Cindrella's Dream.

4. Sir Charles Forbes Trophy - 1400M: Menorca (Geoffrey Nagpal) David Allan 1; Soleva (G Vivek) 2; Incredible Luck (Yash Narredu) 3; Rogue (Aditya Waydande) 4; Not Run: Youaremyeyesbaby. Wb: 1-3/4, 2-1/4, 1-1/4L. T: 1-23.20. TB: Dallas Todywalla. Fav: Caviar Queen.

5. Indian Air Force Trophy - 1000M: Akitaia (Tegbir Singh) David Allan 1; Viennoise (A Omkar) 2; Jaisalmer (Mustakim Alam) 3; House Of Lords (A Prakash) 4; Wb: 2-1/4, Shd, 1-1/2L. T: 0-57.95. TB: James Mckeown. Fav: Akitania.

6. Narayandas J Dave Plate - 1200M: Yourmylove (Vijeth Bhandary) Manish 1; Precioso (T S Jodha) 2; Beyond Stars (B Nikhil) 3; Jetfire (B Nikhil) 4; Wb: 2, Hd, 4L. T: 1-11.23. TB: Prithviraj. Fav: Precioso.

7. J V Shukla - Ashwamitra Plate - 1400M: Amazing Ruler (Mrs Seema Kamlesh) Trevor Patel 1; Shirsha (S G Prasad) 2; Matisse (Siddharth) 3; Vincero (Aditya Waydande) 4; Not Run: Wind Dancer. Wb: 3/4L, Nk, Shd. T: 1-22.36. TB: Faisal Abbas. Fav: Amazing Ruler.

Bengaluru dividends

I race: Rs 37w; 21, 11p; Fc: Rs 108; Q: Rs 43; Shp: Rs 28; Thp: Rs 29; Tri: Rs 202 & 132; 3 Ex: Rs 474 & 258.

II race: Rs 61w; 11, 48, 53p; Fc: Rs 2,034; Q: Rs 662; Shp: Rs 131; Thp: Rs 97; Tri: Rs 29,728 & 4,246; Ex: Rs 72,627 (c/o).

III race: Rs 18w; 11, 12, 13p; Fc: Rs 39; Q: Rs 27; Shp: Rs 30; Thp: Rs 43; Tri: Rs 178 & 129; Ex: Rs 723 & 269.

IV race: Rs 63w; 18, 11, 20p; Fc: Rs 422; Q: Rs 74; Shp: Rs 32; Thp: Rs; 52; Tri: Rs 3,645 & 1,562; Ex: Rs 9,829 & 2,808.

V race: Rs 30w; 16, 15, 28p; Fc: Rs 63; Q: Rs 28; Shp: Rs 41; Thp: Rs 69; Tri: Rs 1,030 & 670; Ex: Rs 13,532 & 2,485.

VI race: Rs 71w; 20, 11, 22p; Fc: Rs 190; Q: Rs 62; Shp: Rs 32; Thp: Rs 58; Tri: Rs 735 & 578; Ex: Rs 2,598 & 891. **VII race**: Rs 17w; 11, 24, 13p; Fc: Rs 199; Q: Rs 229; Shp: Rs 57; Thp: Rs 36; Tri: Rs 677 & 145; Ex: Rs 2,548 & 864.

Jackpot: Rs 4,681 (147). **Runner-up**: Rs 1,161 (254). **Treble**: Rs 1,744 (55).

FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Vinicius' riposte to racism

Juve make comeback before going down in extra time

PARIS, AFP

Vinicius Junior sealed Real Madrid's progress to the Champions League last 16 on Wednesday with the clincher against Benfica as holders Paris Saint-Germain edged out 10-man Ligue 1 rivals Monaco.

Italian giants Juventus almost pulled off a stunning comeback from their 5-2 first leg deficit against Galatasaray, but extra-time goals from Victor Osimhen and Baris Yilmaz gave the Turks a 7-5 aggregate victory, while Lazar Samardzic's injury-time spot-kick put Atalanta through 4-3 on aggregate against Borussia Dortmund.

Vinicius scored the winning goal in a 2-1 victory on the night to secure a 3-1 aggregate success for Real in the play-off tie in Madrid.

"(Vini) had a great game," Real Madrid coach Alvaro Arbeloa told Movistar.

"Unbalancing them, scoring, creating a lot of danger every time he took them on."

A week on from the racism furore in the first leg in Lisbon, Vinicius provided the perfect riposte as the man he accused of racial abuse, Argentine midfielder Gianluca Prestianni sat out the match with a provisional ban imposed by UEFA.

Benfica coach Jose Mourinho was also suspended for the match against his former employers but his side briefly gave him hope of a shock result.

Rafa Silva gave Benfica a deserved lead on 14 minutes, but two minutes later, Aurelien Tchouameni levelled things up on the night with a crisp finish from Federico Valverde's cut-back.

With strike-partner Kylian Mbappe injured, Vinicius then stole the limelight, breaking clear 11 minutes from time to fire across goalkeeper Anatoliy Trubin and into the far corner.

Tchouameni called it "a victory over racism".

PSG overcame a first-half scare to beat Monaco 5-4 on aggregate after a 2-2 draw at the Parc des Princes.

With Morocco full-back Achraf Hakimi picked to start despite facing trial for alleged rape, PSG made a sluggish opening.

Real Madrid's Vinicius Junior (left) kicks the ball past Benfica's Anatoliy Trubin to score the winning goal in the second leg of the Champions League playoffs in Madrid on Wednesday night. REUTERS

Monaco pulled level on aggregate just before half-time as Maghnes Akliouche finished smartly from Mamadou Coulibaly's clever pass.

But Coulibaly picked up two yellow cards in quick succession early in the second half and almost immediately, Desire Doue teed up Marquinhos to finish from close range.

Six minutes later, Hakimi let fly from distance, Monaco goalkeeper Philipp Koehn parried, and Khvicha Kvaratskhelia slammed home the rebound to all but crush the visitors' hopes before Jordan Teze scored in injury time.

Ten-man Juventus's hopes of pulling off a stunning comeback came up short despite beating Galatasaray 3-2 after extra time in Turin.

Captain Manuel Locatelli gave Juve a lifeline with a first-half penalty as the Italians dominated.

But their hopes of progressing took a huge blow when English centre-back Lloyd Kelly was harshly dismissed early in the second half after catching Yilmaz with his studs as he jumped for a header.

Results: Real Madrid: 2 (Tchouameni 16th, Vinicius 80th) bt Benfica: 1 (Rafa Silva 14th), Real Madrid win 3-1 on aggregate; Atalanta: 4 (Scamacca 5th, Zappacosta 45th, Pasalic 57th, Samardzic 90+8th P) bt Borussia Dortmund: 1 (Adeyemi 75th), Atalanta win 4-3 on agg; PSG: 2 (Marquinhos 60th, Kvaratskhelia 66th) drew with Monaco: 2 (Aklioucche 45, Teze 90+1), PSG win 5-4 on agg; Juventus: 3 (Locatelli 37th P, Gatti 70th, McKennie 82nd) bt Galatasaray: 2 (Osimhen 105+1st, Baris Yilmaz 119th) after extra time, Galatasaray win 7-5 on agg.

India seek batting revival in must-win match against Aus

HOBART, PTI

Outplayed in the series-opener, reigning world champions India would aim for an improved batting effort in the second women's ODI against Australia to keep the three-match rubber alive here on Friday.

Having won the T20 series 2-1, a below-par India started the ODI contests on a disappointing note, losing by six wickets in Brisbane. The Indian women's team has never won a bilateral ODI series against Australia.

Australia have dominated the rivalry against India in this format, having won all 11 of the bilateral ODI series between the two sides, including a 3-0 win in late 2024 and a 2-1 victory in September 2025.

But India will look to draw inspiration from their five-wicket win over Australia in the 2025 Women's ODI World Cup semifinals.

In the lung-opener here, India were not upto the challenge and were bundled out for a paltry 214.

Barring vice-captain Smriti Mandhana (58), skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (53) and Kahsvee Gautam (43), no other Indian batter could produce substantial knocks and struggled against Australia's disciplined bowling.

Harmanpreet Kaur

LIVE 9:20 AM, STAR SPORTS NETWORK

Opening the batting, Pratika Rawal made a duck, while Shafali Verma, Jemimah Rodrigues and Deepti Sharma also failed to rise to the occasion. India would be banking on the quartet to come good on Friday.

On the bowling front, left-arm spinner Shree Charani was the star with figures of 2/41 from her nine overs, but she will look for support from the likes of Deepti Sharma and Kashvee.

Trailing in the series, the Indian team management might also be tempted to bring in all-rounders Amanjot Kaur and Sneh Rana.

Srikanth knocked out by Lin in German Open

MULHEIM AN DER RUHR (GERMANY), PTI: Senior Indian shuttler Kidambi Srikanth bowed out of the German Open Super 300 tournament after suffering a straight-game defeat to Chinese Taipei's Lin Chun-Yi in the men's singles second round here on Thursday.

Srikanth, the 2021 World Championships silver medallist, went down 14-21, 9-21 to Lin, the reigning India Open Super 750 champion, in a 32-minute contest.

The defeat also marked the end of India's campaign at the tournament.

Juniors advance

Indian shuttler Dev Ruparelia advanced to the round of 32 with a straight-game victory over compatriot Pranit Somani at the Dutch Junior International in Haarlem, Netherlands on Thursday.

Dev dominated the rallies from the start and maintained the pressure to comfortably seal the match 21-9, 21-6 in just 24 minutes. He will next face Clement Massias of France.

Samuel Tamang in the men's singles and fifth seed Durga Esha Kandrapu in the women's singles also progressed to the round of 32.

Tamang outwitted Axel Boesen of Denmark 22-20, 16-21, 21-11, while Durga prevailed 21-16, 21-9 over Olga Szwarowiecka of Poland.

Akhil Reddy Bobba, Nishchal Chand, second seed Tanvi Reddy Andluri are scheduled to play in the later half.

D Gukesh

Gukesh draws with Niemann

PRAGUE, PTI

World champion D Gukesh survived some anxious moments in the early middle game before drawing with Hans Moke Niemann of the USA in the first round of the masters section of the Prague International Chess Festival here.

The Berlin defense that went wrong for white could be a perfect heading for the encounter between the world champion and Niemann, who is walking his way to the elite chess circles after being indirectly accused of foul play.

It may be recalled that the American infamously won a game against the world number one Magnus Carlsen, which will now be documented in a forthcoming Netflix series.

Niemann came all guns blazing and sacrificed a piece with black piece as early as on move 13 to put Gukesh on the back foot despite having the white pieces.

Results: Round 1: (Indians unless mentioned): Masters: D Gukesh drew with Hans Moke Niemann (USA); Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb) bt Aravindh Chithambaram; Jorden van Foreest (NED) bt Vincent Keymer (Ger); David Navara (Cze) bt Parham Maghsoodloo (IRI); Nodirbek Yakubboev (Rus) bt David Anton Guijarro (Esp).

Challengers: Divya Deshmukh drew with Benjamin Gledura (Hun); Surya Shekhar Ganguly lt to Thomas Beersden (NED); Zhu Jiner (CHN) lt to Jachym Nemec (Cze); Daniel Yuffa (Esp) lt to Stepen Hrbek (Cze); Jonas Buhl Bjerre (Den) drew with Vaclav Finek (Cze).

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
BENGALURU URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH
Olo Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, First Floor,
Zilla Panchayat Building, S. Kariyappa Road,
Banashankari (Near Banashankari Temple), Bengaluru 560070.
Phone No: 080-26716046 Website: http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

No.EE/PRED/BNG(U)/TND/AE-1/38/2025-26 Dated: 26.02.2026 - CALL-2

KPPP Tender Notice (Two Cover System)
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION -

Tenders are invited through KPPP Portal by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D. Bangalore Urban, For APA Grants Works. The work details can obtained from the KPPP Web Site The Tender Documents can be obtained and submitted on or before Dated: **06.03.2026** upto 4.00 pm. Further details can be obtained from web site at **http://www.KPPP.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office during office working hours

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division,
Bangalore Urban Dist, Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/5892/SSC/2025-26

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Ph: 080- 25586550/25586402 Email: info@ksicsilk.com

No:KSIC/ACCT/TALLY/2025-26 **Date: 23.02.2026**

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal only)

Short term e-Tenders are invited through KPP Portal from **the Experienced Chartered Accountant Firms for Maintaining Company Accounts in Tally Accounting System at the Corporate Office, KSICL, Bangalore and Branch's at Mysore, T.Narasipura and Channapatna.**

Tender Documents, Details of the Notification, schedule, terms & conditions can be downloaded from https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/. Pre-bid meeting to be held **on 07.03.2026 at 11.00 AM** and Last date and time for uploading the tender with EMD of **Rs.50,000/-** through KPP Portal is **13.03.2026 upto 5.00 PM.** The Technical bids will be opened on **16.03.2026 at 11.00 AM.** Any Corrigendum/Addendum will be published in KPP Portal only. Further details can be had from the office of the Undersigned during working hours or KPP Portal - Helpdesk: 080-46010000 and 080-68948777.

Sd/-
GENERAL MANAGER (F&A)

DIPR/CP/5867/MAA/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
ZILLA PANCHAYATH, BELLARY
Office of the Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division, Bellary.
No. EE/PRED/BLY/AE-1/Various Heads/2025-26/1998
Dt. 23-02-2026.

Short Tender Notification (Through KPPP Portal only)

On behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka tenders are invited from the eligible contractors who have enrolled in Panchayath Raj Engineering Department for 15 works comprising of approved Road, Bridge and Building works under 2024-25 Flood 5054, 2025-26 CMIDP Works, 2025-26 Social welfarte Dept Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Bhavan Works and 2024-25 CM **Special Grant through KPPP portal.**

Indent No.
1.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT24229/CALL-2
2.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT24141/CALL-2
3.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT24315/CALL-2
4.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT23205/CALL-2
5.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT23371/CALL-2
6.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT24441/CALL-2
7.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT24440/CALL-2
8.RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT24426/CALL-2
9.RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT24422/CALL-2
10.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT23370/CALL-2
11.RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT24482/CALL-2
12.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT23288/CALL-2
13.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT24269/CALL-2
14.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT24442/CALL-2
15.RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT22811/CALL-2

Contractors are required to submit the tender before 02-03-2026 at 4.30 PM by uploading the relevant documents through KPPP portal website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in by downloading the formats for submission of tenders from 23-02-2026 to 03-03-2026 at 4.30 PM. Tenders will be opened through KPPP portal on 04-03-2026 at 5.30 PM. Any changes in the notification will be published KPPP website only. Accepting/rejection of tenders without assigning reason is reserved. Any details can be obtained in person at the office or through telephone No. 08392-266173.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division Ballari
DIPR/Ballari/1056/KSMCA/2025-26

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer (QA/QC), Zone-1,
Amurthahalli Main Road, Byatarayanapura, Bengaluru-92.
No: BNCC/EE/(QA/QC)/TEND/06/2025-26 Date:26-02-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Two Cover System)
(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)

The Executive Engineer, Quality Assurance/Quality Control division, Zone-1, invites Request for Proposal on behalf of Commissioner, Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) from interested persons/firms those who have done similar type of work for Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality control (PMC) for the below works through KPP portal.

Sl No.	Name of the work
1.	Comphrensive Development and Improvements to roads and Drains at Kattigenahalli, Vinayakanagar, Kogilu Layout, Agrahara Layout, Chokkanahalli, Thirumenahalli Surrounding Areas in **Ward No-05** Kogilu. MCECHS Layout 1st, 2nd Phase and Central Revenue Layout, Sriramapura, Jakkur Surrounding Areas in **Ward No-06** Jakkur. CMIDP Scheme 2025-26 (Package No. 01) (Call-2) **Project Cost: ₹.1000.00 Lakhs, PMC Amount Reserved: ₹.8.06 Lakhs, EMD Amount: ₹.20,500.00**

Calendar of Events : (1) Pre-Bid Meeting on **02-03-2026** at **11:30** am. (2) Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders is **07-03-2026** upto **4:00** pm. (3) Opening of Technical Bid is **09-03-2026** at **4:30** pm.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
(QA/QC), BNCC

Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department
Office of The Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department, Chickballapur Division, Chickballapur. Phone: 08156-270058
E-mail ID: eerdwsd.ckb2@gmail.com

EE:RDW&SD:CBP:AE-2: 2025-26 **DATE: 23.02.2026**

Tender notification No. 14/2025-26, 2,4,5,6,11,13,28/2023-24 Call-2,3,4,5,6,7,8 & 1,7,25/2024-25 Call-3,7, Date: 23.02.2026

Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Chickballapur, On behalf of Governor of Karnataka Invites request for proposal of tenders from the eligible bidders for the work of Providing FHTC"S to **28** Villages Gudibande, Gowribidanur, Bagepalli & Chinthamani, Taluk Chickballapur District . One &Two Cover tender procedure as per rule 28 of the KTPP act shall be followed. The tenderers are required to submit tenders through E-Procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ (1)** Last Date & Time for Queries: **09.03.2026 Time: 5.30 PM (2)** Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids**:11.03.2026 Time: 5.30PM (3)** Date & Time of Technical Bid Opening**:13.03.2026 Time: 11.00 AM (4)** Date & Time of Financial Bid Opening**:16.03.2026 Time: 11.00 AM.**

More details can be had from the office of the undersigned and also through **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/** by clicking List of Tenders which will link to all Dept. works list.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department, Chickballapur
DIPR/CHIKKABALLAPUR/RO:452/KSMCA/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
Department Of Archaeology, Museums And Heritage, Mysore
Karnataka Exhibition Authority Premises, Indiranagara, Mysuru-570010, Telephone No : 0821-2424673/74, ,
Email- commr_amh@yahoo.in, Web : https://archaeology.karnataka.gov.in, https://nammakarnataka.in

Tender Notification Number: DAMH/CW/S.T.T-32/2025-26 Date: 23.02.2026

SHORT TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of the Governor, Government of Karnataka, the department of Archaeology, Museum and Heritage, Mysuru has invited the itemwise tender for the 06 works of **DAMH/2025-26:OW/WORK_INDENT-184, 185, 190, 193, 194 (Call-2)** under the standard tender documents **KW- 4.** The amount of minimum **Rs. 150.00 lakhs** to Maximum **Rs.231.00 lakhs** kept for these tenders as per Standard Tender bid Document. Tender documents can be obtained through **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/)** e-portal from date **24.02.2026** onwards.

Last date and time of any Queries for tend r	02.03.2026, 17.00 hrs
Pre bid meeting of tender submission	02.03.2026, 11.00 hrs
Last date and time of tender submission	04.03.2026, 16.00 hrs
Opening of Date and Time of Technical bid	06.03.2026, 16.30 hrs
Opening of Date and Time of Financial bid	07.03.2026, 16.00 hrs

Sd/- Commissioner
Department of Archaeology, Museums And Heritage, Mysore.

DIPR/MYSORE/SHIRDISAI/1757/2025-26

KARNATAKA STATE MINERALS CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Regd. Office : TTMC 'A' Block 5th Floor, BMTC Building, KH Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560027.
Phone: 080-22278813/14/15/16, Fax : 080-22213172
Website: https://ksmc.karnataka.gov.in

No. KSMCL/PROD/RFP/2025-26/3224 **Date: 26.02.2026**

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EoI)

KSMCL invites Invitation for Expression of Interest from Strategic Consultancy Services for the Transformation of Karnataka State Minerals Corporation Limited.

Calender of events

1	Tender Reference No	KSMCL/2025-26/ PREQUAL_ TENDER_ NUMBER_1
2	Commencement of downloading the EOI Invitation from the e-Procurement portal	From 26/02/2026
3	Pre Bid Meeting	03/03/2026 at 11.30 AM
4	Last date of receipt of EOI	05/03/2026 up to 5.00 PM
5	Date of opening of EOI	06/03/2026 at 11:30 AM
6	Address for communication	**General Manager (P) Karnataka State Minerals Corporation Limited** TTMC, "A" Block, 5th Floor, BMTC Building, K.H. Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560027. Phone: 080-22278813/ 14/15/16

Sd/-
GENERAL MANAGER (P)

DIPR/CP/5880/AKAR/2025-26

Hosts next meet Windies in what is going to be a virtual quarters

INDIA CRUSH ZIMBABWE TO STAY IN HUNT

SIDNEY KIRAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

What is the best way to answer criticism? Just perform. And that's exactly what the under-fire Indian batters did against Zimbabwe with a sensational display of power-hitting that resurrected their semifinal hopes in the ICC T20 World Cup here on Thursday.

Staring down the barrel following an abject display against South Africa in their opening Super Eights Group 1 game on Sunday, the Men In Blue were handed a massive lifeline when the Proteas crushed the West Indies by nine wickets earlier in the day in Ahmedabad.

This was exactly the news India wanted, and they made the utmost use of it, hammering a hapless Zimbabwe by 72 runs in front of a packed and passionate crowd at the MA Chidambaram Stadium. While South Africa secured their place in the semifinals following India's win, the hosts can guarantee their ticket to the last four if they beat the West Indies in a virtual quarterfinal for the two sides in Kolkata on March 1.

The superlative win was set up by their batters, who finally got the pitch they'd been yearning for this World Cup. Asked to bat first magnanimously by Zimbabwe captain Sikandar Raza, all the Indian batters accepted the gift with both hands as the hosts posted a mammoth 256/4 — the highest total of in World Cup and their second highest in the format. Despite being battered, Zimbabwe put up a fight through Brian Bennett (97 n.o.) but they could only muster 184/6.

Opener Abhishek Sharma, who was going through a lean run with three ducks, top-scored with 55 off 30 balls, while all-rounder Hardik Pandya (50 n.o., 23b) and Tilak Varma (44 n.o., 16b) provided the late fireworks after Ishan Kishan (38) and skipper Suryakumar Yadav (33) ensured the momentum was never lost in the middle.

India, as expected, brought in Sanju Samson (24) to pair up with Abhishek at the top, and the stumper-batter, who too had lost his playing XI spot to Kishan, appeared determined to cash in on the opportunity. Following a pep talk with India great Ravi Shastri during a practice session ahead of the match, the 31-year-old came out swinging his bat right from the onset to push Zimbabwe on the back foot.

Samson's confidence rubbed off on Abhishek when he smashed Tinotenda Maposa for a gorgeous lofted cover-drive boundary in the third over. He belted three more boundaries and a six in the same over, and suddenly Abhishek looked like the No. 1 T20 batter in the world, not the one searching for the next run.

What made things easy for Abhishek was that he didn't have to deal with any off-spinners early on, as Raza, stunningly, went with pace instead of spin where India had been found wanting this World Cup. Not the ones to complain, India sped on like a bullet train, scoring 80/1 in the Power Play - the second best in this World Cup.

This was exactly the foundation the Indians needed, and they built brilliantly from there, ticking off the next problem they'd been enduring — stumble in the middle overs. First, Kishan paired with Abhishek in a 72-run stand off 42 balls for the second wicket, before Suryakumar continued that with the latter in a 30-run partnership off 13 balls for the third wicket. Balls kept flying all around the ground, but Zimbabwe too didn't help their cause with two dropped catches and some sloppy fielding.

Then it was up to Pandya and Varma to provide the final flourish, and the duo with an eye-popping unbeaten 84-run partnership off just 31 balls for the fifth wicket. That brought the swagger back to the Indians.

The all-round show by Hardik Pandya (left) and a fine half-century by Abhishek Sharma powered India to 72-run win over Zimbabwe in a Super Eights match in Chennai on Thursday. PTI

India's highest totals in T20Is

Total	Vs	Venue	Year
297/6	Ban	Hyderabad	2024
283/1	SA	Johannesburg	2024
271/5	NZ	Thiruvananthapuram	2026
260/5	SL	Indore	2017
256/4	**Zim**	**Chennai**	**2026**

Highest totals in T20 World Cup

Total	By	Vs	Venue	Year
260/6	SL	Kenya	Johannesburg	2007
256/4	**Ind**	**Zim**	**Chennai**	**2026**
254/6	WI	Zim	Mumbai	2026
235/5	Ire	Oman	Colombo (SSC)	2026
230/8	Eng	SA	Mumbai	2016

Most 6s in an innings in T20 World Cup

6s	By	Vs.	Venue	Year
19	Ned	Ire	Sylhet	2014
19	WI	Zim	Mumbai	2026
17	**Ind**	**Zim**	**Chennai**	**2026**
16	Aus	Ind	Bridgetown	2010
15	Ind	Aus	Gros Islet	2024

COMPILED BY ARUN GOPALAKRISHNAN

SCORE BOARD

INDIA

Samson c Burl b Muzarabani 24 (15b, 1x4, 2x6)
Abhishek c Raza b Maposa 55 (30b, 4x4, 4x6)
Kishan c Ngarava b Raza 38 (24b, 4x4, 1x6)
Surya c Musekiwa b Ngarava 33 (13b, 3x4, 2x6)
Pandya (not out) 50 (23b, 2x4, 4x6)
Varma (not out) 44 (16b, 3x4, 4x6)
Extras (LB-4, W-7, NB-1) 12
TOTAL (for 4 wkts, 20 overs) 256
Fall of wickets: 1-48 (Samson), 2-120 (Kishan), 3-150 (Abhishek), 4-172 (Suryakumar).
Bowling: Ngarava 4-0-62-1 (w-1), Muzarabani 4-0-43-1, Maposa 2-0-40-1 (w-2, nb-1), Evans 4-0-52-0 (w-2), Raza 3-0-29-1, Bennett 2-0-16-0, Burl 1-0-10-0 (w-1).

ZIMBABWE

Bennett (not out) 97 (59b, 8x4, 6x6)
Marumani c Kishan b Axar 20 (20b, 2x6)
Myers c Varma b Chakravarthy 6 (9b)
Raza c Abhishek b Arshdeep 31 (21b, 2x4, 2x6)
Burl lbw Arshdeep 0 (2b)
Munyonga b Arshdeep 11 (6b, 2x4)
Musekiwa c Samson b Dube 7 (4b, 1x6)
Evans (not out) 1 (1b)
Extras (B-1, LB-1, W-7, NB-2) 11
TOTAL (for 6 wkts, 20 overs) 184
Fall of wickets: 1-44 (Marumani), 2-72 (Myers), 3-144 (Raza), 4-144 (Burl), 5-162 (Munyonga), 6-173 (Musekiwa).
Bowling: Arshdeep 4-0-24-3 (w-1), Pandya 3-0-21-0, Bumrah 3-0-21-0, Chakravarthy 4-0-35-1, Axar 4-0-35-1 (w-2), Dube 2-0-46-1 (w-4, nb-2).
Result: India won by 72 runs.
PoM: Hardik Pandya.
India's next match: Vs West Indies (March 1, Kolkata).

Kagiso Rabada (centre) was the pick of South Africa's bowlers with figures of 2/22. PTI

Markram wary despite SA's dominant run

AHMEDABAD, PTI

"It doesn't feel easy," South Africa captain Aiden Markram insisted on Thursday, even as his team brushed aside another heavyweight opponent in West Indies for a sixth consecutive win in the T20 World Cup and enter semifinals from Group 1.

The Proteas' latest triumph -- a clinical nine-wicket win while chasing 177 against the West Indies -- followed comprehensive victories over New Zealand (by seven wickets) and hosts India (by 76 runs), underlining their status as one of the most complete sides in the competition.

Reflecting on the commanding margins against top-tier opposition, Markram said the external perception of comfort was far removed from the internal grind.

"They're quality teams (New Zealand, India and West Indies) and to put in strong performances against sides like that definitely gives you confidence," he said at the post-match press conference.

"But it honestly doesn't feel easy. Every game drains you. The intensity is seriously high and you know things can change very quickly in T20 cricket. You wake up the next morning and it can all be over in a couple of days."

Markram emphasised that the squad's focus and preparation had been key to sustaining the run.

"The scorelines might look convincing, but we know how much planning and execution goes into beating teams of that calibre. The boys have been fully locked in. There's a lot of pride in this group and a real hunger to achieve something special."

Against the West Indies, South Africa first assessed a surface that offered early grip and bounce before easing out later in the evening.

"Up front it was tacky and there was a bit of extra bounce from a hard length. We tried to use that with the ball. As it got better, we had to adjust our plans and the guys did that really well," Markram explained.

Proteas do India a big favour

South Africa hammer Windies by 9 wkts to book their spot in semifinal

AHMEDABAD, PTI

A clinical South Africa outclassed West Indies by nine wickets in their Super 8 clash to stretch their unbeaten run and seal a place in the semifinals of the T20 World Cup here on Thursday.

A dominating show by the Proteas pacer was followed by authoritative batting. Yet again, South Africa executed their plans perfectly to further their cause, racking up their sixth win on the trot and halting West Indies' unbeaten run in the tournament.

With South Africa taking two vital points off the West Indies, hosts India now have their qualification hopes firmly in their own hands as a Proteas defeat would have dented their chances severely.

The loss hurt the Caribbean side's net run rate that came down to 1.791 from an impressive 5.350.

First it was South Africa pacers that rocked the West Indies' batting line-up before a lower-order fightback from Romario Shepherd (52 not out) and Jason Holder (49) lifted the two-time champions to 176 for eight.

Skipper Aiden Markram struck an unbeaten 82 to steer South Africa to a nine-wicket win over West Indies in a Super Eights match in Ahmedabad on Thursday. PTI

Then skipper Aiden Markram (82 not out), Quinton De Kock (47) and Ryan Rickelton (45 not out) batted with authority as the Proteas overhauled the target in 16.1 overs.

By collecting 69 runs from the six Powerplay overs, the South Africans had demoralised the Windies attack. Except for a few hit-and-miss shots, the two openers controlled the proceedings.

They struck both pacers and spinners with equal ease and raised a quick 95-run stand in 7.5 overs, hitting 16 boundaries including six shots over the rope.

De Kock hit four sixes and as many fours in his 24-ball knock before offering a catch to Jason Holder at long-on. Markram raised his fifty with a single off Gudakesh Motie.

With Rickelton, Markram raised an unbeaten 82-run stand and finished the game in style with a straight four off pacer Jason Holder.

Earlier, from the high of their dominant win over Zimbabwe, the West Indies were in for a rude shock as Kagiso Rabada (2/22) and Lungi Ngidi (3/30) got the ball to bounce from good length to trouble the batters, reducing the big-hitting West Indies line-up to 83 for seven.

Holder (49 off 31) and Romario Shepherd (52 not out off 37) then stitched together a record 89-run stand for the eighth wicket to prevent a complete collapse of the innings.

Brief scores: West Indies: 176/8 in 20 overs (Jason Holder 49, Romario Shepherd 52; Kagiso Rabada 2-22, Lungi Ngidi 3-30 and Corbin Bosch 2-31) lt to South Africa: 177/1 in 16.1 overs (Aiden Markram 82 n.o., Quinton de Kock 47, Ryan Rickelton 45 n.o.) by 9 wickets. **PoM**: Aiden Markram.

SUPER 8s GROUP 1

Teams	P	W	L	NR	Pts	NRR
South Africa (Q)	2	2	0	0	4	+2.890
West Indies	2	1	1	0	2	+1.791
India	**2**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**2**	**-0.100**
Zimbabwe	2	0	2	0	0	-4.475

Kiwis look to seal the deal with win against England

COLOMBO, PTI

New Zealand spinners, led by their mercurial skipper Mitchell Santner, will pose some difficult questions to an English lineup spearheaded by the marauding Harry Brook when the two sides clash in a Super Eight game of the T20 World Cup here on Friday.

The match is of greater significance to the Black Caps as they bid to seal a semi-final spot while England are already through to the last four stage after logging two consecutive wins.

The huge 61-run win over Sri Lanka has elevated New Zealand's net run-rate to +3.050 and to ensure that they progress, the Kiwis have to just avoid a heavy defeat.

Pakistan, after their defeat to England, have a net run-rate of -0.461 and would not only need New Zealand to lose badly but also have to beat Sri Lanka by a heavy margin to eclipse the Black Caps' NRR.

New Zealand have shown that they are comfortable playing against as many six spinners in the match versus Sri Lanka. They actually beat the co-hosts in their own game.

While Brook and Will Jacks have both been comfortable against the likes of Saim Ayub, Mohammed Nawaz and Shadab Khan, New Zealanders Santner, Rachin Ravindra, Glenn Phillips, Cole McConchie could prove to be more handy on a slightly tackier Premadasa track compared to Pallekele.

Brook is in good form, as demonstrated by his match-winning hundred against Pakistan, and the team would expect veteran Jos Buttler to up his game after having a quiet tournament so far. A good start by Buttler will put England in a strong position.

At the other end, the off-spin of Jacks and the left-arm spin of Liam Dawson could be equally challenging for the Kiwis.

At Premadasa, anything in the range of 165 to 175 can be considered a winning score if the spinners are in operation.

"You're always confident going into these fixtures, especially when we know what the surface is going to be like, but I think it'd be silly to underestimate England at any point," Black Caps all-rounder Rachin Ravindra said after his match-winning performance against Sri Lanka on Wednesday.

New Zealand captain Mitchell Santner has been productive with both bat and ball this T20 World Cup. AFP

LIVE @ 7 PM

SUPER 8s GROUP 2

Teams	P	W	L	NR	Pts	NRR
England (Q)	2	2	0	0	4	+1.491
New Zealand	2	1	0	1	3	+3.050
Pakistan	2	0	1	1	1	-0.461
Sri Lanka	2	0	2	0	0	-2.800

'Captain Santner makes you feel 10 feet tall & bulletproof'

COLOMBO, PTI: Mitchell Santner is a protective shield around his teammates and finds a way to make them feel bigger in stature, New Zealand opener Rachin Ravindra said in effusive praise of his captain after the Black Caps beat Sri Lanka by 61 runs to enter the T20 World Cup semifinals here.

While Ravindra scored 32 and also scalped 4 for 19 to win Player Of The Match award, it was skipper Santner's 26-ball 47 that propelled New Zealand to 168 for 7 after being down and out at 84 for 6.

He also bowled a miserly spell of 1/19 in four overs with half a dozen dot balls in Sri Lanka's 107 for 8.

According to Ravindra, the greatest attribute of Santner is showing the way with game-changing performances like the one against Sri Lanka on Wednesday.

"Obviously we all know how chill he (Santner) is but also how his mind works, like what ball is to bowl from what end is fantastic. But I think more than anything he leads through his performances and his work ethic," Ravindra said at the post-match press conference.

"He backs you and he pumps your tyres a lot and I think it's great to have a leader like that. Makes you feel ten feet tall and bulletproof."

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

T20 WC: England vs New Zealand **(7 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network**, **JioHotstar**.

2nd WT20: Australia vs India **(9:20 am)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network**, **JioHotstar**.

Ranji Trophy Final: K'taka vs J&K **(day 4, 9:30 am)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Khel**, **JioHotstar**.

FOOTBALL

EPL: Wolves vs Aston Villa **(1:30 am, Friday)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Select 1**, **JioHotstar**.

ISL: East Bengal vs Jamshedpur **(5 pm)**, BFC vs Punjab FC **(7:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Ten 2**, **FanCode**.

Asian Athletics to inspect Kalinga for indoors

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

Asian Athletics are all set to inspect the Kalinga Indoor Athletics Stadium in Bhubaneswar on Friday after the Athletics Federation of India's (AFI) bid to host the 2028 edition of the Asian Indoor Athletics Championships last year.

An AFI official has confirmed that the Asian body's delegation had already reached the Odisha capital on Tuesday night and would be inspecting the World Athletics-certified venue, which is all set to host its first competition -- the inaugural National Indoor Athletics Championships -- next month.

The development comes after the World Athletics inspected the same venue following India's bid for the World Indoor Athletics Championships in the same year as the continental event.

The multipurpose Kalinga Stadium, which is right next to the indoor arena, is also set to host the WA Silver-Level Continental Tour for the first time in India (in August) after successfully hosting the bronze-level meet last year.

AFI has either expressed interest or bid for multiple international events in the coming years, including major events such as the 2031 World Athletics Championships while India is bidding for the 2036 Olympics and are hosting the 2030 Commonwealth Games in Ahmedabad.

Miomir Kecmanovic

Medvedev sweeps past Brooksby

DUBAI, AFP

Daniil Medvedev produced a clinical 6-2, 6-1 performance against Jenson Brooksby on Thursday to advance to his third Dubai semifinal.

The former world No. 1 boasts 22 career titles but has never won the same tournament twice. He is trying to change that this week in Dubai, where he lifted the trophy in 2023.

The 30-year-old former US Open champion awaits top-seeded Felix Auger-Aliassime or eighth seed Jiri Lehecka in the final four.

Later Thursday, Andrey Rublev faces Arthur Rinderknech and Jakub Mensik takes on Tallon Griekspoor to see who will make up the other semi-final clash.

Zverev loses

Top-seeded Alexander Zverev crashed out of the ATP Acapulco Open on Wednesday, losing in three sets to unseeded Serbian Miomir Kecmanovic who claimed his first career win over a top-five player, reports AFP from Acapulco, Mexico.

Kecmanovic, ranked 84th in the world, triumphed 6-3, 6-7 (3/7), 7-6 (7/4) over world number four Zverev, who was playing his first tournament since an epic semi-final defeat to eventual champion Carlos Alcaraz at the Australian Open.

Kecmanovic, 25, had come up empty in 11 prior career matches against top-five players.

"It feels amazing," said Kecmanovic, who was aided by 17 unforced backhand errors from the German.

Karnataka pair Jason Saldanha and PVS Murthy currently lead the INRC2 class of FMSCI INRC 2025.

Rally leader Mascarenhas eyes win in finale

BENGALURU, DHNS: Fresh from sealing his maiden National overall title at Indore, TSI Racing's Dean Mascarenhas of Mangaluru, along with co-driver Gagan Karumbaiah of Kodagu, will aim to sign off the season in style when the sixth and final round of the FMSCI Blueband Sports Indian National Rally Championship 2025 (INRC) gets underway in Nashik on Friday.

Meanwhile, TSI Racing's team-mates from Himachal Pradesh, Aditya Thakur and co-driver Virender Kashyap, who won the Indore round on MRF Tyres are looking for an encore.

The three-day tarmac rally, organised by the Western India Sports Association with seasoned Clerk of the Course Ashwin Pandit at the helm, has drawn a competitive field of 34 entries, including nine INRC3-spec cars and an international flavour with the husband-and-wife duo Raguvaran V and Chew Amanda from Singapore joining the fray.

Having wrapped up the coveted overall crown in Indore, Mascarenhas is keen to cap his breakthrough season with another strong performance.

The INRC2 category promises a thrilling showdown, with Mangaluru's Jason Saldanha and Palakkad's Fabid Ahmer separated by just two points.

CRICKET RANJI TROPHY FINAL

Nabi puts J&K on the cusp of history

Pacer's blows reduce K'taka to 220/5 in pursuit of visitors' 584

Mayank Agarwal struck an unbeaten 130 to keep the hosts floating on the third day of their Ranji Trophy final against Jammu & Kashmir in Hubballi on Thursday. DH PHOTO/ GOVINDRAJ JAVALI

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
HUBBALLI, DHNS

Blending sensible stroke-play with staying power, Mayank Agarwal single-handedly held Karnataka together against Jammu & Kashmir with an unbeaten hundred on the third day of the Ranji Trophy final at the KSCA Rajnagar Stadium here on Thursday.

Mayank's unbeaten 130, amongst the finest Karnataka hundreds this season, enabled the struggling hosts to reach 220/5 in 69 overs, thereby bringing down the first innings deficit to 364.

At the other end was Kruthik Krishna (27 n.o., 75b) when the stumps were drawn on an extended day.

There was plenty of seam movement on offer for the J&K bowlers and it felt like they were bowling on a different wicket to when Karnataka operated, who slogged for 173.1 overs.

Auqib Nabi (3/32) zipped the ball around at decent pace and troubled all the Karnataka batters except a zoned-in Mayank.

Nabi, who was relentless in his first four overs (4-2-4-0), picked up his 56th wicket of the season when he squared up KL Rahul (13, 39b) with a delivery that moved late, taking the edge and went into the wicketkeeper's gloves six minutes before lunch.

It took Mayank 23 balls to settle in, and when Sunil Kumar (1/45) offered a delivery on the full, he leant in and crunched it through the covers for four.

He then showed trust in his defence and safely negated a few good balls before nailing two more drives to the fence as Karnataka went into lunch at 35/1.

Mayank then delicately opened the face of the bat as the ball raced away towards backward point fence as he reached 5,000 Ranji Trophy runs.

While Mayank was oozing class at the other hand, Sunil got Devdutt Padikkal (11) to poke at a ball seaming away to put Karnataka on the backfoot at 56/2.

Karun Nair (0) looked uncomfortable against Nabi's consistency and was also a victim when he pitched it on a length and angled it into Nair, who looked to play straight through the line but was foxed by the movement upon pitching and was castled.

The very next delivery was again on a length, but this straightened after pitching, as Smaran R (0) edged it to the keeper.

Shreyas Gopal (27, 83b), who faced the hat-trick ball from Nabi, survived a delivery that moved in after pitching.

On the other end, Mayank continued to collect runs with a few statement shots, and reached his fifty in 82 balls, driving past extra cover for a couple. He also stitched a fighting 105-run partnership with Shreyas, who showed faith in his defence and survived 63 balls before he was trapped in front by Yudhvir Singh (1/32).

Agarwal then opened a package of flicks and drives and brought up his 21st first-class hundred in 153 balls.

Earlier, Prasidh Krishna (5/98) claimed his fourth of the innings when Abid Mushtaq (28) top edged straight into mid-on's hands. In the next over, he completed his fourth first-class five-for when Nabi (2) edged one to Kruthik while uncomfortably ducking a fuller ball.

After bowling his heart out for two days, Vyshak Vijaykumar (1/75) finally picked up a wicket when Sahil Lotra (72) pulled one to fine leg.

Yudhvir 30 (28b) found his timing and hit a few delightful shots before Padikkal's direct hit had him walking back as Jammu & Kashmir ended their marathon innings on 584 all out.

SCORE BOARD

JAMMU & KASHMIR (I Innings O/n: 527/6): Qamran Iqbal c Rahul b Prasidh 6 (36b, 1x4), Yawer Hassan c Rahul b Prasidh 88 (150b, 13x4), Shubham Pundir c Aneesh b Vidyadhar 121 (247b, 12x4, 2x6), Paras Dogra b Shreyas 70 (166b, 8x4), Abdul Samad c Kruthik b Prasidh 61 (104b, 6x4, 1x6), Kanhaiya Wadhawan c Rahul b Shikhar 70 (109b, 9x4, 1x6), Sahil Lotra c Vidyadhar b Vyshak 72 (138b, 7x4), Abid Mushtaq c Padikkal b Prasidh 28 (50b, 3x4), Auqib Nabi c Kruthik b Prasidh 2 (9b), Yudhvir Singh (run out) Padikkal 30 (28b, 3x4, 2x6), Sunil Kumar (not out) 1 (2b). Extras (W-5, B-14, LB-16) 35. **TOTAL (all out, 173.1 overs) 584.**

Fall of wickets: 1-18 (Iqbal), 2-157 (Yamer), 3-303 (Shubham), 4-307 (Samad), 5-417 (Kanhaiya), 6-471 (Dogra), 7-539 (Abid), 8-543 (Nabi), 9-573 (Lotra).

Bowling: Vidyadhar Patil 32-2-116-1, Vyshak Vijaykumar 34-10-75-1, Prasidh Krishna 34.1-7-98-5, Shreyas Gopal 34-2-139-1, Shikhar Shetty 37-3-125-1, Karun Nair 2-1-1-0

KARNATAKA (I Innings): KL Rahul c Wadhawan b Nabi 13 (39b, 2x4), Mayank Agarwal (batting) 130 (207b, 17x4), Devdutt Padikkal c Samad b Sunil 11 (10b, 2x4), Karun Nair b Nabi 0 (9b), Smaran R c Wadhawan b Nabi 0 (1b), Shreyas Gopal lbw Yudhvir 27 (83b, 1x4), Kruthik Krishna (batting) 27 (75b, 2x4). Extras (NB-10, LB-2) 12. **TOTAL (for five wkts, 69 overs) 220.**

Fall of wickets: 1-27 (Rahul), 2-56 (Padikkal), 3-57 (Karun), 4-57 (Smaran), 5-162 (Shreyas)

Bowling: Auqib Nabi 14-3-32-3, Sunil Kumar 14-3-45-1, Yudhvir Singh 10-3-32-1, Abid Mushtaq 20-2-62-0, Sahil Lotra 9-0-42-0, Abdul Samad 2-0-5-0.

'I just wanted to keep it simple and bowl in good areas'

Pacer Nabi dismissed Rahul, Nair & Smaran

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
HUBBALLI, DHNS

For about three minutes during the 18th over of Karnataka innings, a deafening silence prevailed here at the KSCA Rajnagar Stadium as a relentless Auqib Nabi wheeled away in his customary celebration after picking Karun Nair and Smaran R in two successive deliveries.

And for those three minutes, Karnataka looked clueless.

Having entered the Ranji Trophy final with 99 wickets in the last two seasons, Nabi was tagged as Jammu and Kashmir's poster boy of seam bowling. And it did not take long for him to justify the hype.

After picking KL Rahul with a peach, squaring him up, Nabi bowled two seeds -- one that hit the seam and moved away and the other that straightened after pitching -- to dismiss the hosts' top-two highest run-getters this Ranji Trophy season.

Auqib Nabi. DH PHOTO/ GOVINDRAJ JAVALI

And the magic potion? Keeping things simple.

"I just wanted to keep it simple. Just wanted to bowl in a particular spot and in good areas," Nabi said after the end of the third day's play.

The Karnataka bowlers had toiled for 173.1 overs on a lifeless and slow track. However, to a certain extent, they had themselves to blame as they were a tad wider and shorter from the stumps.

"I felt there was little help on the pitch but Karnataka were a little wayward with the ball," he said.

In Nabi's case, he was much closer to the off stump, and with the odd ball staying low, made the batters play more often, consistently bowling in the corridor of uncertainty.

Nabi's cocked wrist came to the fore, which helps him to keep the seam upright and land it on the seam consistently, threatening the edges and the stumps.

The 29-year-old explained the value of a strong and stable wrist behind the ball.

"It's very important. If you have a straight wrist, everything else becomes easy for you. Because the ball moves only with the wrist. So if you have a cocked wrist, the rest will follow if you hit the right channel."

Having run through Karnataka's star-studded batting-order like a knife through butter, Nabi said the results will come irrespective of the batters' name if one bowls in good areas.

"Yes, I was confident. No batter is difficult to bowl to if you keep bowling in good areas. I think about my bowling and not who I am bowling to," he signed off.

Samvrath in line for a fine double

BENGALURU, DHNS: Samvrath DS, the second seed, set himself up for a fine double by entering the final boys' singles final before winning the doubles title with Santo Babu in the MAT–AITA Under-14 Talent Series Tennis Tournament at the KSLTA courts here on Thursday.

In the boys' semifinal, Samvrath defeated his doubles partner Santo Babu 6-3, 7-6 (8-6) to set up final against third seed Dhanush, who scored a facile 6-3, 6-2 victory over Shivansh Ojha

In the boys' doubles final, Samarth and Santo defeated Likhith Janardhana and Dhnush 6-4, 5-7, 10-5.

In the girls' singles final, third seed Avani Gopireddy will clash with Nishka Mallik. Avani beat seventh seed Tejasvi Anand 6-0, 6-2 in the semifinal while Nishka defeated Pranvuta P 6-2, 6-3.

The girls doubles final saw Rykaa Sharma and Haasini Parvarhaneni defeat Pranvuta P and Avani 6-2, 7-5.

Results: Boys' singles semifinals: Dhanush S M bt Shivansh Ojha 6-3, 6-2; Samvrath DS bt Santo Babu 6-3, 7-6 (8-6).

Doubles final: Samvrath/ Santo Babu bt Likhith Janardhana/ Dhanush 6-4, 5-7, 10-5.

Girls' singles: Nishka Mallik bt Pranvuta P 6-2, 6-3; Avani Gopireddy bt Tejasvi Anand 6-0, 6-2.

Doubles final: Rykaa Sharma/ Sai Haasini Parvathaneni bt Pranvuta P/ Avani 6-2, 7-5.

BFC hunt goals against stubborn Punjab FC

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

BFC's Lalremtluanga Fanai (right) has become a vital cog as lone defensive midfielder in Renedy Singh's formation. BFC

LIVE 7:30 PM, SONY SPORTS

Bengaluru FC should be licking their lips as they host Punjab FC in their third consecutive home match of the Indian Super League season at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium here on Friday.

Facing a Punjab side that looked unconvincing in their opening outing against Jamshedpur FC in a 0-1 defeat, BFC couldn't have asked for a better respite after an entertaining yet hard-fought draw against a super-charged NorthEast United FC who revealed chinks in BFC's armour.

Their Friday's rivals lack the similar firepower as the Chandigarh-based physical outfit, coached by Panagiotis Dilmperis, is devoid of any domestic or foreign big names up front. Their Nigerian striker Effiong Nsungusi had a quiet debut and looked largely isolated in a packed formation as the Greek coach likes to keep his midfield and defensive lines close in a park-the-bus attitude.

This makes it crucial for BFC's attack to capitalise the early minutes of the match when the crowd is roaring at the top of its voice and the defence is unsettled. Skilful wide forwards like Ashique Kuruniyan and Ryan Williams -- backed by their overlapping national team fullbacks Nikhil Poojari and Roshan Singh -- are capable of providing that impetus.

However, a question mark remains over the finishing quality with their club's ageing stalwart Sunil Chhetri accepting the fringe role. Youngster N Sivasakthi has been entrusted with filling those big shoes but his limited technical skills have not impressed many, irrespective of the fact that he tapped in the club's opening goal of the season.

Coach Renedy, however, is a fan of Siva's off-the-ball work and feels the 24-year-old striker is a right fit for his "attack as a team and defend as a team" approach.

Defending as a team will be crucial too as the coach also stated that their leading defender Rahul Bheke is uncertain less than 24 hours from the kick-off after a knee injury that forced him to miss the NEUFC match as well.

His absence was telling as BFC's defense looked shaky, especially in set-piece situations, while debutant Bungson Singh paired up with Chinglensana Singh as centre back.

This points at the need to stabilise the defence and lone defensive midfielder Lalremtluanga Fanai, who has looked convincing in the role at just 21, would have to stay closer to the two CBs in order to provide that extra cover.

Saying that, it won't be wrong to bill BFC as big favourites, especially as the former champions. However, if they want to pose a strong challenge to the title early in the season, a statement win on the night will send that signal to other contenders.

ISL clubs reject Churchill's inclusion request again

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

Churchill Brothers are still trying to join the current season of the Indian Super League and made another attempt through a letter from the All India Football Federation asking for the decision to be reconsidered. However, the request was rejected again because ISL clubs said they are not in favor of expanding the league right now.

Churchill made a late push for their inclusion early February when they wrote to AIFF for their inclusion in the ISL following the last season's I-League champions' controversy with Inter Kashi, which saw the Goan club being stripped of the title following a judgement by the Court of Arbitration of Sports (CAS) that overturned an AIFF's disciplinary committee decision of docking off Inter Kashi's points for fielding an 'invalid foreign player'.

Churchill, however, challenged the decision in the Swiss Federal Tribunal (SFT) who refused to stay the ruling and are yet to deliver a verdict. This remains the ground for Churchill's inclusion in the ISL as the two-time I-League champions claim the matter is still sub-judice.

The request was not considered at the AIFF's executive committee meeting two days before the start of the league too as the majority of the ISL clubs wrote to the federation that inclusion of a 15th club at the eleventh hour will lead to a schedule reshuffle and further delay in the commencement of the already-delayed season.

However, the Goan club politically influenced AIFF into writing to the clubs last week to reconsider their position for Churchill's inclusion while two of the clubs also gave no objection to their inclusion.

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Printed and published by B A Ravi on behalf of The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, at The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, Plot nos. 7-12, Kumbalgodu Industrial Area, Bengaluru - 560 074. Executive Editor: K V Subramanya (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act). Editorial Office: 75, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. E-mail: editor@deccanherald.co.in. Phone: 080-45557333, Editorial: 080-45557279/080-45557280, Circ: 080-45557204, Advt: 080-45557163/080-45557164. Also printed at Hubballi-Dharwad, Mangaluru, Kalaburagi, Davangere, Mysuru and Hosapete. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. RNI No 3608/57. Registered, Regn. No: KRNA/BGE/1027/2023-2025, posted at Bangalore PSO, Mysore Road, Bengaluru - 560 026. Website: www.printersmysore.com